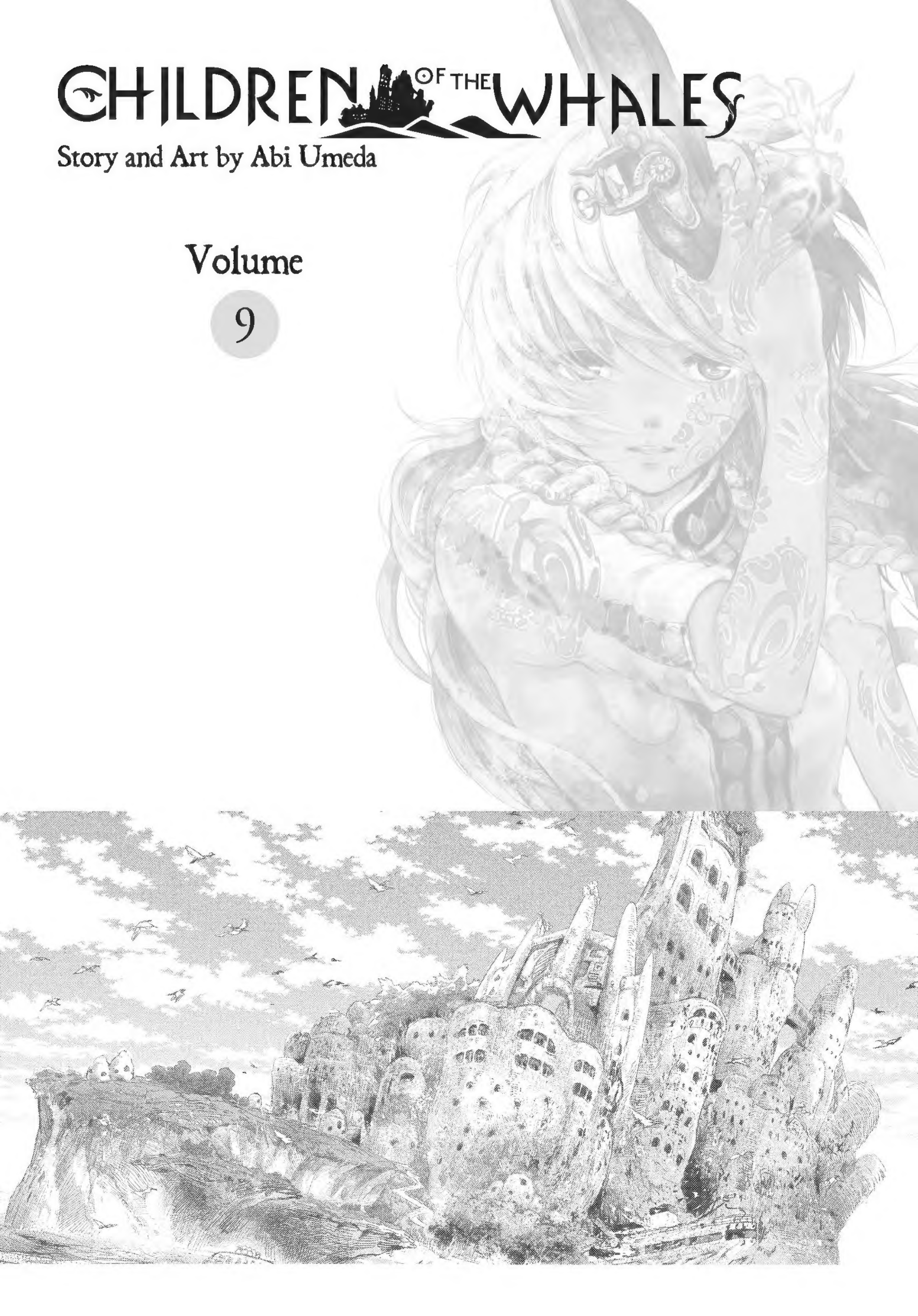
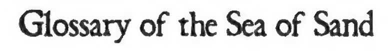

CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
9
ABI UMEDA


CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
Story and Art by Abi Umeda
Volume
9



Glossary of the Sea of Sand



The Mud Whale	A huge, drifting island-ship. Those in the empire who resisted giving up their emotions were exiled here, along with all their descendants.
Thymia	Telekinetic power derived from emotions.
The Marked	The 90 percent of the Mud Whale population who are thymia users. They are all short-lived.
The Unmarked	The members of the Mud Whale population who cannot use thymia. Unlike the Marked, they are long-lived.
Nous	A unique organism that obtains energy from peoples' emotions and gives people the power of thymia in return.
Nous Fālaina	A Nous that dwells deep within the Belly of the Mud Whale. Unlike other Nouses, it consumes the life force of humans rather than their emotions.
The Allied Empire	A large nation on the Sea of Sand that controls its citizenry through the Nouses and their absorption of emotions.
Daímonas	A legend from the empire. A being said to be able to destroy a Nous.



A Record of the Mud Whale and the Sea of Sand

Year 93 of the Sand Exile.

The Mud Whale drifts endlessly through the Sea of Sand, home to about 500 people who know nothing of the outside world.

Then the empire suddenly attacks the Mud Whale, and its normally peaceful people are only just able to win the battle. Chakuro, Lykos and the rest of the survivors soon have another encounter—with Sir Rochalízo and his crew. To avoid coming under further attack from the empire, the Mud Whale makes for Amonlogia, Rochalízo's homeland.

As the Mud Whale travels though the Sea of Sand, Chakuro and his friends discover Midēn's Room, a chamber with walls inscribed with the history of the Mud Whale. There, Chakuro finds records of a boy named Midēn who was born on the Mud Whale and slaughtered people with his strange thymia. On reading that this boy was the legendary daímonas, Chakuro and the others can't help but think of Ouni, who looks just like Midēn and has exceptional thymia himself.

"The Mud Whale was our entire world."

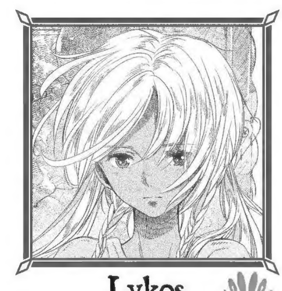
Characters

On the Mud Whale



Ouni
(Marked, 16 years old)

A very powerful thymia user. He has the power to destroy Nouses and is called the daímonas by the Allied Empire.



Lykos
(Marked, 14 years old)

A girl from the Allied Empire who comes aboard the Mud Whale. She has a connection with Chakuro and others on the Mud Whale and decides to stay with them.



Chakuro
(Marked, 14 years old)

The young archivist of the Mud Whale. He has hypergraphia, a disorder that compels him to record everything.



Aíma
(???)

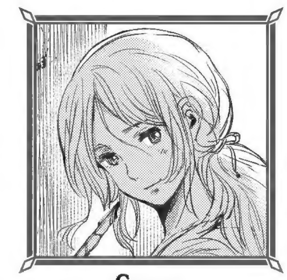
She appears to Chakuro after Neri disappears. She gives Chakuro the Mud Whale's rudder.





Neri
(???)

A girl with superhuman powers who disappears when Aíma appears.



Suou
(Unmarked, 17 years old)

The mayor of the Mud Whale. He works harder than anyone to remedy the short life spans of the Marked.

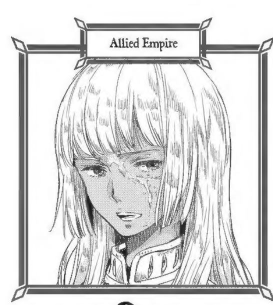
Amonlogia



Rochalízo
(???, 17 years old)

He is the son of the duke of Amonlogia, of the United Kingdom of Suidelasia. He is leading the Mud Whale to his country.

Allied Empire



Orca

A high-ranking official from the Allied Empire and Lykos's brother. His battleship Skyros was sunk when he attacked the Mud Whale, but he managed to evade punishment.

Mud Whale of the Past



Midēn
(???)

The daímonas born to Dyo, the first mayor of the Mud Whale. He looks like Ouni. Dyo and Midēn both died in a spectacular fashion.



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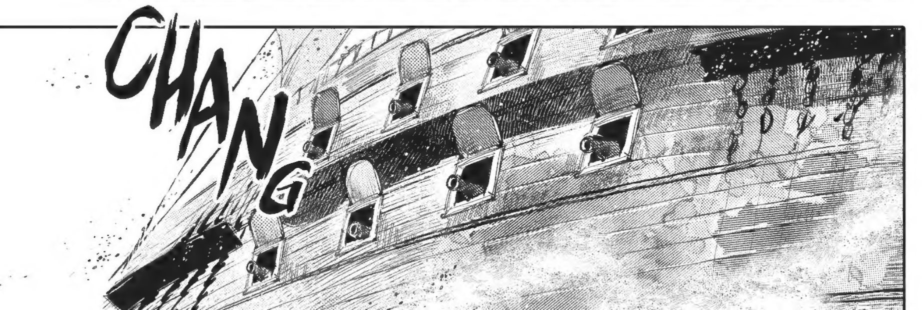



Chapter 34
Foreign Land


THAT'S AN AMON-LOGIAN SHIP...!
IT'S GETTING CLOSER.
SOME-THING ISN'T RIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LYKOS?
DEÍKTIS?!

AND IF THAT SHIP IS ONE OF ***THEIRS***?
SIR DEÍKTIS!
P-PLEASE STOP.







THE GUNS ARE POINTING AT US!
WHAT?
DEÍKTIS.
HE THINKS WE'RE AN ENEMY VESSEL.
HE'LL FIRE ON US!
WE HAVE TO LET HIM KNOW THAT SIR ROCHALÍZO IS ON BOARD!
...
GASP
ROCHALÍZO... YOUR SHIP'S FLAG...!
DASH
I'LL GO, SUOU!


CHA-KURO!
HURRY.
KEEP GOING!
IT'S HEAVY ...
TUG TUG
IT WON'T COME OUT!
GO!
YOU CAN DO IT, DESTROYER!!
HYUU

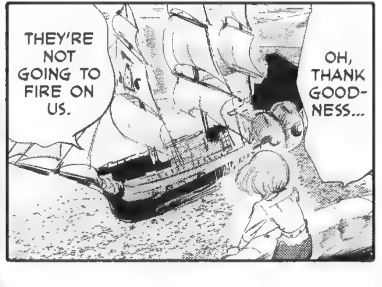

EVERY-ONE... FLOAT IT!
HYŪUN
OKAY, NOW OVER TO THE CENTRAL TOWER ...!
GRAB IT!
FIRE.

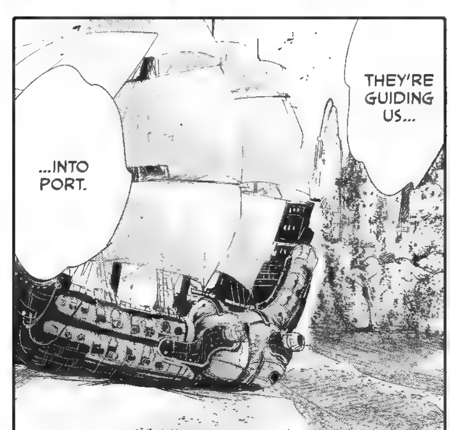

SIR DEIKTIS!


LOOK ...


IT'S THE CREST OF AMONLOGIA!

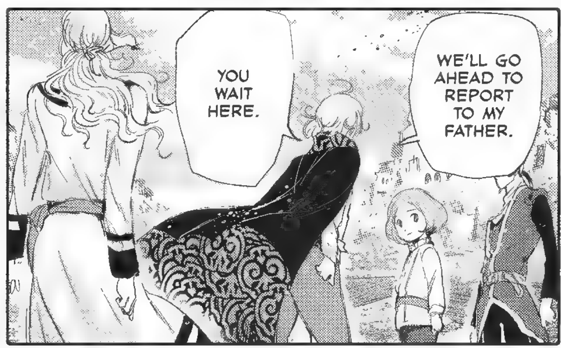



OH, THANK GOODNESS...
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO FIRE ON US.


THEY'RE GUIDING US...
...INTO PORT.


YES!
WE DID IT, CHAKURO!
SIGH...
MY BROTHER IS GOING TO GIVE ME A HEART ATTACK.


DON'T LET THE ISLAND GET TOO CLOSE.
IT'S TOO BIG. IT WILL ALARM THE POPULACE.


WE'LL GO AHEAD TO REPORT TO MY FATHER.
YOU WAIT HERE.


ROCHA-LÍZO...
...WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.


DASH
DASH






Day 24, month 11, year 93 of the Sand Exile.

The Mud Whale dropped anchor at the port of Amonlogia.

IT LOOKS LIKE A TOY BOX.

DO PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE IN ALL THOSE BUILDINGS?

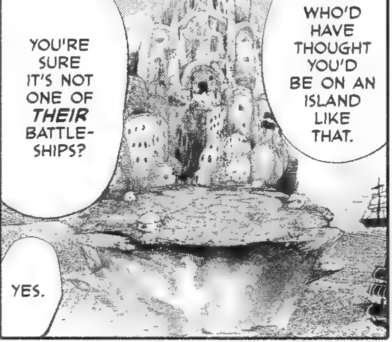
I WANT TO GO SEE...

RIGHT... ...CHA-KURO?

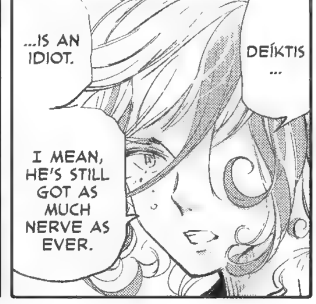
YEAH.

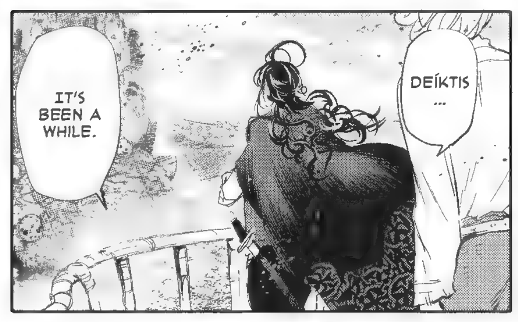

SIR ROCHALÍZO.
WELCOME BACK.


WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
YOU DISAPPEARED FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS...


WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D BE ON AN ISLAND LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE SURE IT'S NOT ONE OF *THEIR* BATTLESHIPS?
YES.


SHEESH...
IF THAT HAD BEEN ONE OF THEIR BATTLESHIPS AND WE HAD ATTACKED IT...
THE FEAR TOOK MONTHS OFF MY LIFE!


DEÍKTIS...
...IS AN IDIOT.
I MEAN, HE'S STILL GOT AS MUCH NERVE AS EVER.


DEÍKTIS...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.


YOU'VE BROUGHT ALONG SOME-THING PECULIAR.
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT THINGY...
YOU KNOW, THAT LEGEND FROM THE OLD SEAS. "DEATH ISLAND," WAS IT?


WELL, WHAT-EVER.
DEÍKTIS.


I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT ISLAND.
I DON'T WANT OUR CITIZENS TO BE ALARMED BY IT...


DEÍK–
WHOOSH
GASP!
OH NO...
MY HAIR IS MESSY!


FIX IT.
N-NOW?
HURRY UP.


MESSY HAIR...
...LEADS TO A MESSY HEART.

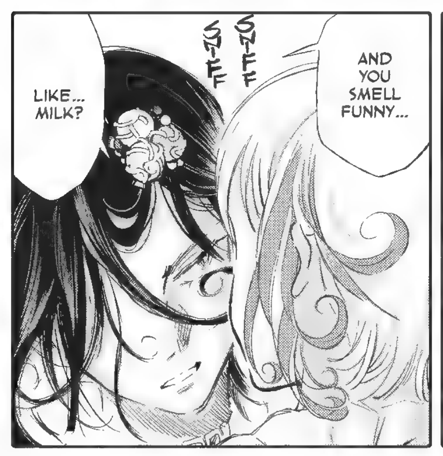
WHICH LEADS TO THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE OF AMONLOGIA BECOMING A MESS.

EVERY-ONE IN THIS COUNTRY ...

...MUST PROTECT MY HAIR!







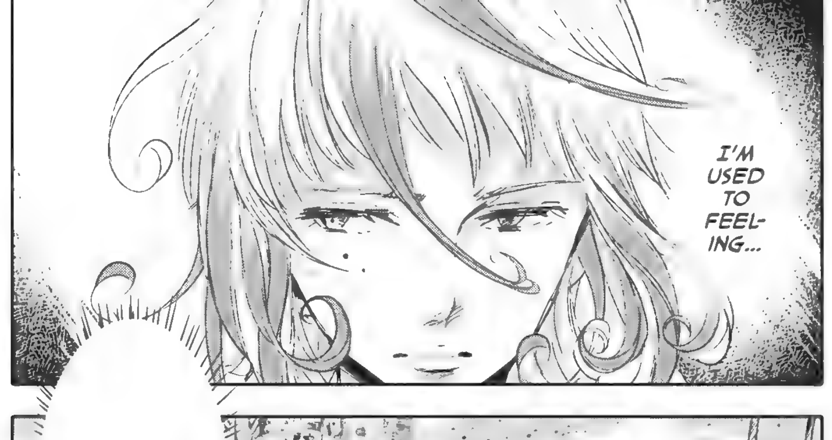

I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO BECOME ANY MORE BORING...
MAINTAIN YOUR GORGEOUSNESS AT ALL TIMES.

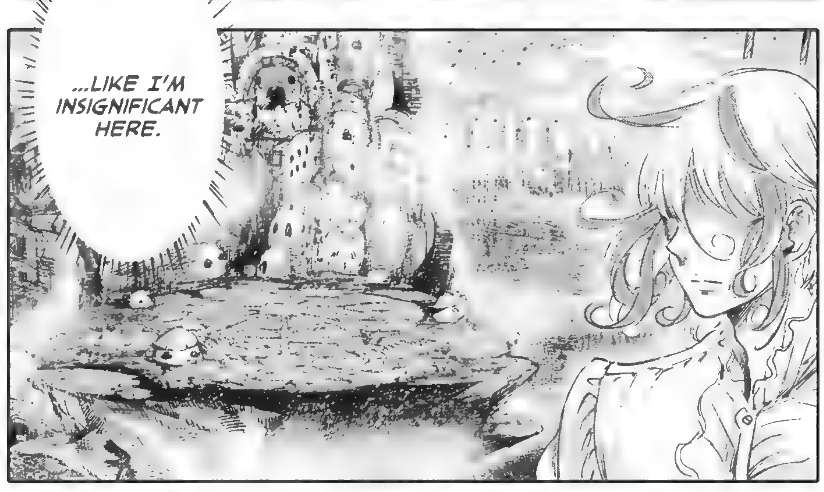

SIR DEÍKTIS...
SIR ROCHALÍZO HAS RETURNED HOME AFTER SIX MONTHS A-SEA.

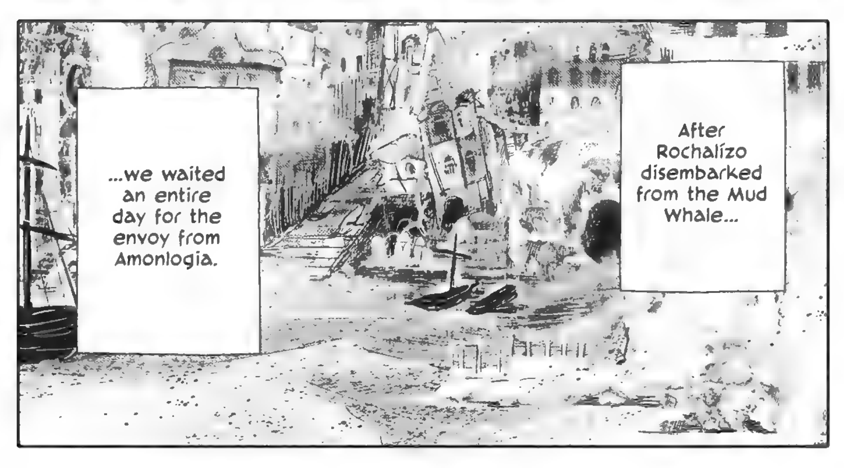

PERHAPS YOU COULD BE...
...A LITTLE NICER TO HIM?


OH, YES ...
EVERY-ONE THINKS...


...THAT YOU CROAKED ON THE SEA OF SAND.
ONCE YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT SANDY, MILKY MESS...
...LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
...

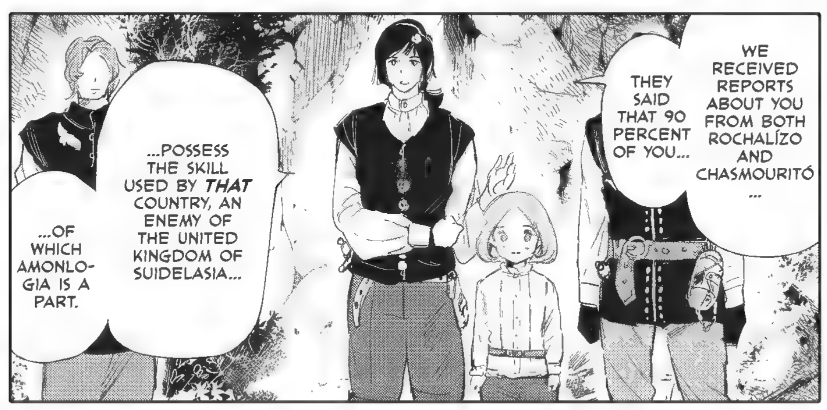

I'M USED TO FEEL-ING...


...LIKE I'M INSIGNIFICANT HERE.


After Rochalízo disembarked from the Mud Whale...
...we waited an entire day for the envoy from Amonlogia.

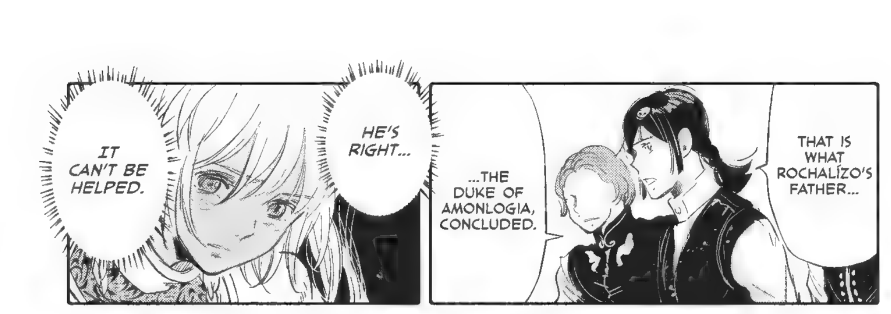

Like chrysalides, we slept and dreamed of that unknown world.
THERE'S THE ENVOY'S SHIP!

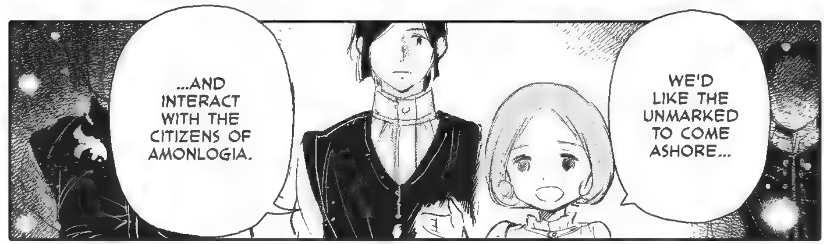


WHAT?!
ONLY THE UNMARKED ARE ALLOWED TO COME ON LAND?
F-FOR THE TIME BEING.

WE RECEIVED REPORTS ABOUT YOU FROM BOTH ROCHALÍZO AND CHASMOURITÓ...
THEY SAID THAT 90 PERCENT OF YOU...
...POSSESS THE SKILL USED BY *THAT* COUNTRY, AN ENEMY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF SUIDELASIA...
...OF WHICH AMONLOGIA IS A PART.

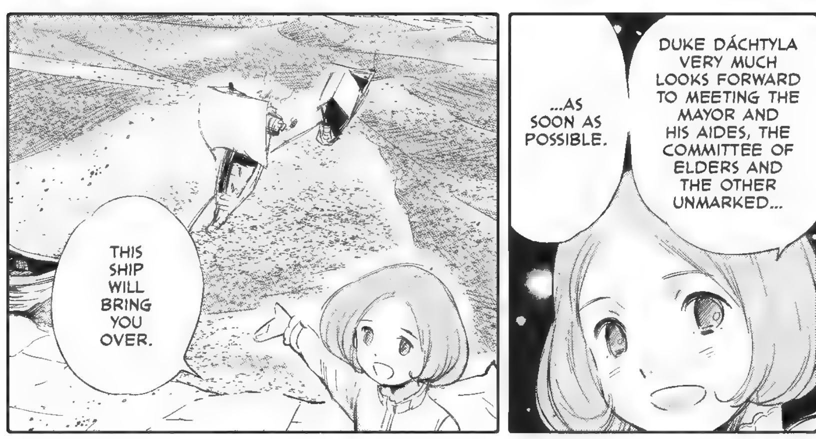
YOU MEAN THYMIA.
IT'S A MAGICAL ART USED BY OUR ENEMIES.

TO SUDDENLY INVITE PEOPLE WHO POSSESS THIS SKILL INTO OUR COUNTRY...
...WOULD TERRIFY THE CITIZENRY AND CAUSE UNREST.


THAT IS WHAT ROCHALÍZO'S FATHER...
...THE DUKE OF AMONLOGIA, CONCLUDED.
HE'S RIGHT...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.


WE'D LIKE THE UNMARKED TO COME ASHORE...
...AND INTERACT WITH THE CITIZENS OF AMONLOGIA.

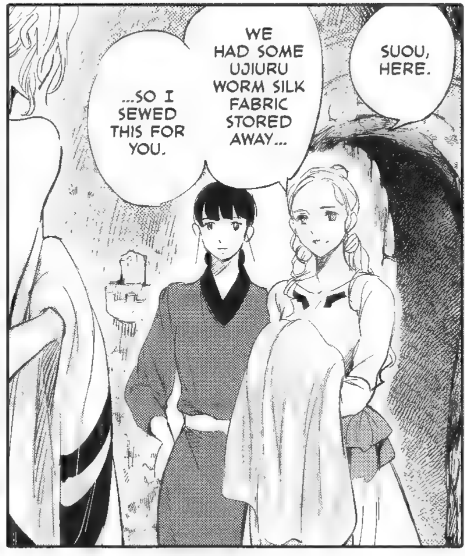

IT WILL HELP EASE ANY FEARS AND SUSPICIONS THEY MAY HARBOR TOWARD THE MARKED.
AFTER THAT, WE'D LIKE TO ARRANGE FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE IN AMONLOGIA.


DUKE DÁCHTYLA VERY MUCH LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING THE MAYOR AND HIS AIDES, THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS AND THE OTHER UNMARKED...
...AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THIS SHIP WILL BRING YOU OVER.


I'M TELLING YOU, YOU CAN'T JUST WEAR YOUR USUAL CLOTHING...
MAYOR SUOU, YOU'RE REPRESENTING ALL OF US!


LOOK, IT'S GRUBBY!
THEY'LL THINK WE'RE SAND BUMPKINS.


BUT...
...WHAT CAN I DO? THAT'S WHAT WE ARE, MIRU.
NO!
OH ...
THAT'S GOT HOLES.

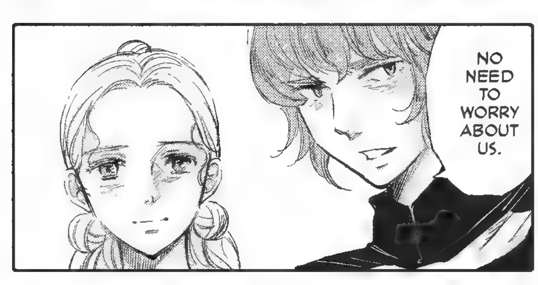

SUOU, HERE.
WE HAD SOME UJIURU WORM SILK FABRIC STORED AWAY...
...SO I SEWED THIS FOR YOU.


SUCH A PURE WHITE.
SO PRETTY!









WE HAVE...

...A FINAL TASK AS THE UNMARKED OF THE MUD WHALE...

...AND WE NEED TO MAKE SURE IT'S COMPLETED.

WE MUST SECURE NEW LAND WHERE THE MARKED CAN LIVE.


LOOK ...
MAYOR SUOU LOOKS RADIANT.
After quickly explaining the situation to the island, Suou and the other Unmarked...
...headed to the ducal city on the ship that had been sent for them.
Of the 49 Unmarked, 38 left on that ship. Eleven, including the Eldest, were excluded from the journey.


WE CAN'T GO YET.
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT SUOU ON HIS OWN...

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT OUNI AND THE PURPLE-WINGED RUDDER.
BUT IF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH AMONLOGIA DON'T GO WELL, IT'S MOOT...
...AND I'LL BE BACK SOON.
SUOU, GO DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO.
WE'LL STAY WITH OUNI...
WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE ON THE MUD WHALE.
OKAY...
...WHILE SUOU AND THE OTHERS ARE GONE...
...WE'LL PROTECT THE MUD WHALE!
SNUG!
THAT'S RIGHT, MISS COMMANDER GINSHU WILL PROTECT YOU!!
SHFF




KSSH
KSSH


BOING
YEAH, THE UNMARKED DON'T HUNT OR GATHER SUPPLIES.


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE LEFT THE ISLAND.
THE MUD WHALE IS GETTING SMALLER.

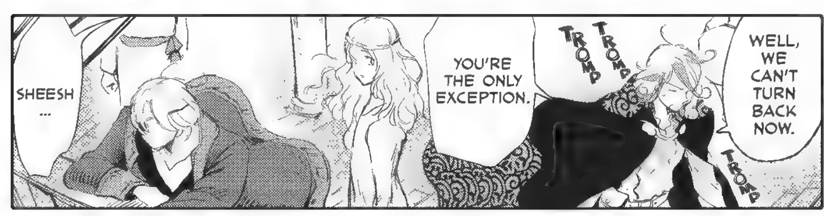

YOUNG SIR, I'M NEARING THE END OF MY LIFE...
...SO I CAN'T USE THYMIA ANYMORE.
YOU KNOW THAT'S WHY I QUIT THE VIGILANTE CORPS, RIGHT?

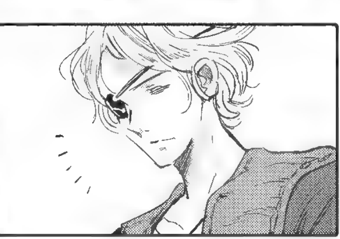

COM-MAND-ER?!
HOW'D YOU GET HERE?


HEY!
HE'S MARKED, ISN'T HE?
ROCHA-LÍZO...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ON BOARD.


BUT ...
WON'T YOU LET SOMEONE WHO HAS SO LITTLE TIME LEFT SEE A NEW LAND?


... YOU CAN'T USE YOUR POWER, CORRECT?

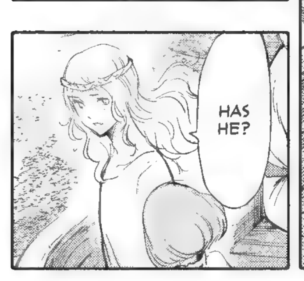

WELL, WE CAN'T TURN BACK NOW.
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
YOU'RE THE ONLY EXCEPTION.
SHEESH ...






ACTUALLY, ROCHALÍZO HAS BEEN A BIT DOWN SINCE YESTERDAY.




HAS HE?



IT'S GOING TO GET BUSIER AND BUSIER FROM HERE ON OUT!

AMONLOGIA IS CRISS-CROSSED WITH SAND CANALS.

WE'LL TAKE A TOUR OF THE CITY BY SHIP AND THEN GO ON TO THE CASTLE.

DO YOU SEE ALL THE FLAGS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES?

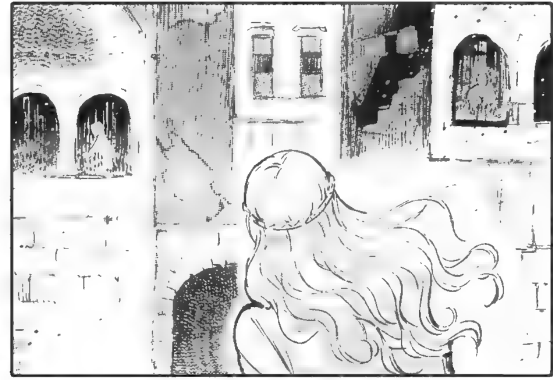
LOOK, SHIPS BEING PULLED BY SEA CREATURES!

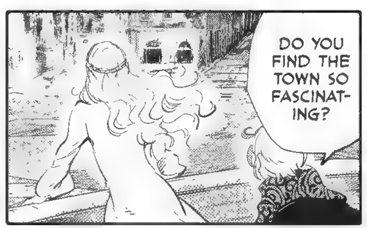
AMONLOGIA IS A HUB FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

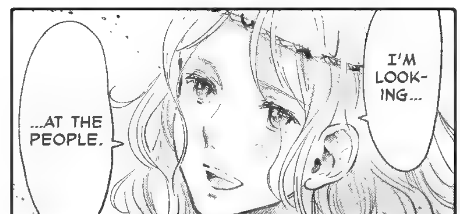
WE TRADE WITH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE SAND, AND MANY DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.

AND IT ISN'T JUST GOODS EITHER. CODED MESSAGES OF MANY HUES FLIT ABOVE THE SAND ROUTES LIKE BUTTERFLIES.

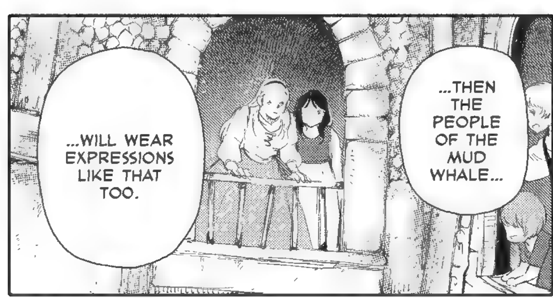












...

LOOK...

...SAMI.

THERE WERE MANY ON THE MUD WHALE...

...WHO SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS VIEW.



WE'LL ...

...BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE CHILDREN OF THE MUD WHALE HERE.

HAKUJI ...

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU'VE ALL GONE GLOOMY.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...


I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE OUR EYES...
...ARE SEEING THIS WORLD...
...THROUGH THE RECORDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO'VE COME BEFORE.



THIS...

...IS WHERE ROCHALÍZO LIVES?







DEÍKTIS...

!!

SWAY

IT'S LIKE...

...MY EYES ARE DOING SOMERSAULTS.

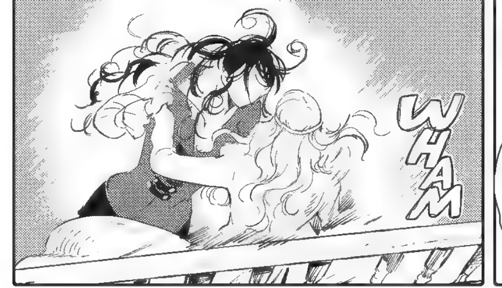
TMP

TMP

IS THIS...

YANK

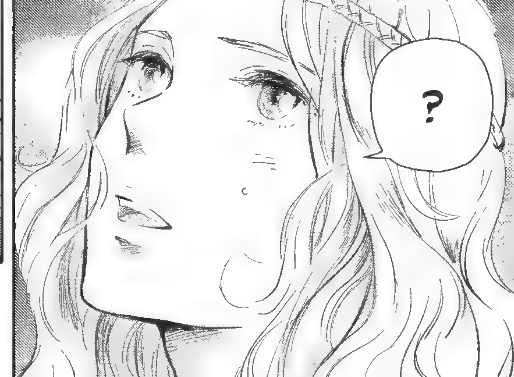
...THE MONKEY THAT LIVES ON THE SAND?



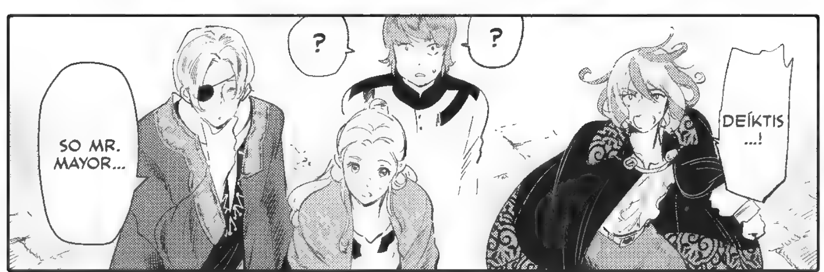


BECOME MY MISTRESS.

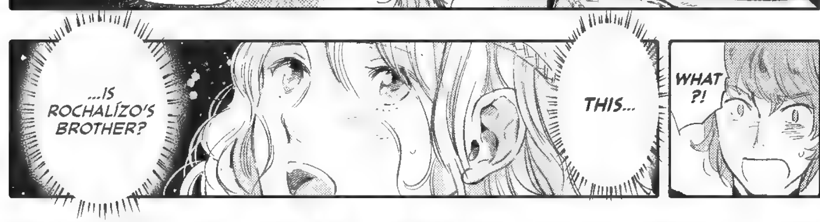




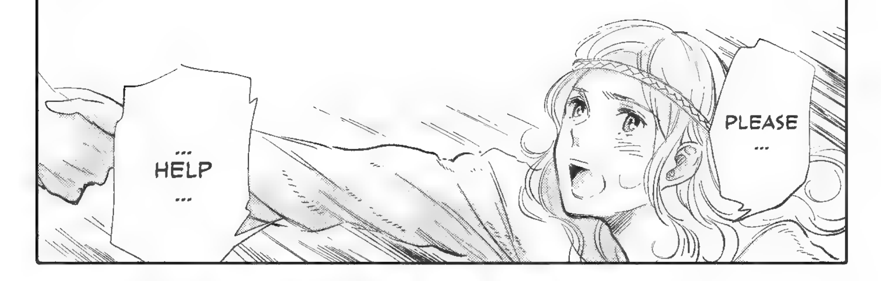

FATHER !!
YANK
I WANT THIS ONE...
...TO BE MY MISTRESS!
DASH


DEÍKTIS ...!
?
?
SO MR. MAYOR...


...IS BEING MISTAKEN FOR A GIRL.


WHAT ?!
THIS...
...IS ROCHALÍZO'S BROTHER?


I...
I'M...
... SUOU ...
...THE MAYOR OF THE MUD WHALE.

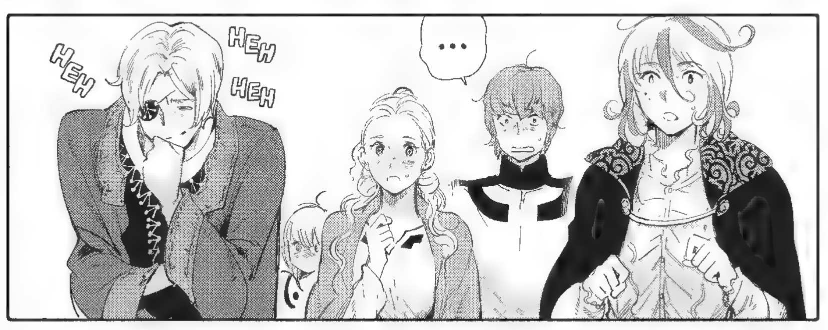


...THE CITIZENS OF THE MUD WHALE!

YOU CAN HELP *ME*...

... BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN.

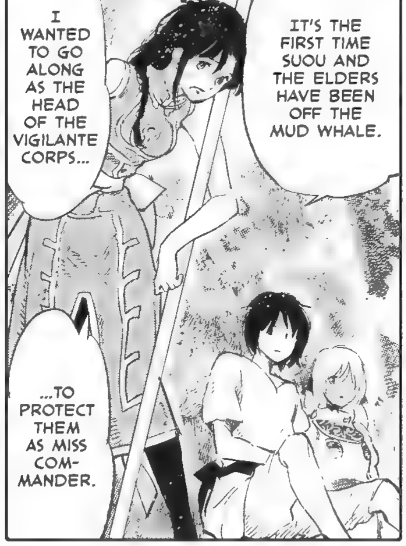
SQUEEEE

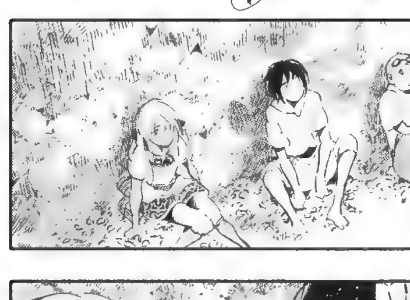


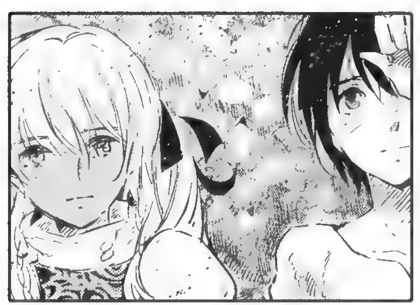

Chapter 35
Chief to Chief

ZSSH

TAK TAK
AGH ...
TAK
I'M GETTING WORRIED.

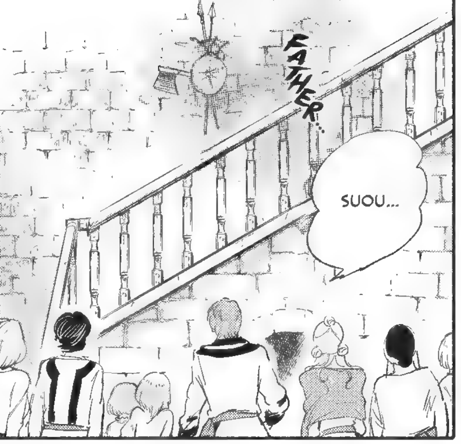







If Suou and the others were successful in their negotia-tions...
...then the breath of the island, the sand and dirt that had protected us...
...would only exist in our memories.
Even if that made us melan-choly...
...all we could do was wait for Suou and the others to return.


FATHER.
FATHER!
FAAATHERRR!!


FATHER...
SUOU...


WELCOME ...
... ELDERS.


YOU!
DO SOME-THING!
SUOU IS...
Oh dear.
SIR DEÍKTIS HAS A WEAKNESS FOR BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.


HE'S NOT A WOMAN!
THEN HE JUST NEEDS TO DISCOVER THAT SUOU IS A MAN.
I DO NOT BELIEVE HIS INTERESTS LIE IN THAT DIRECTION.
HE'S PUSHY BUT NOT A BAD PERSON.
SUOU SHOULD BE OVER THIS WAY...
I'LL SHOW YOU.

I'M FEELING A LITTLE EMOTIONAL...

...THAT WE'VE FINALLY MADE IT BACK HERE.

LET ME FORMALLY INTRODUCE MYSELF...

I AM GÁMPA, A RETAINER OF THE DUKE OF AMONLOGIA.

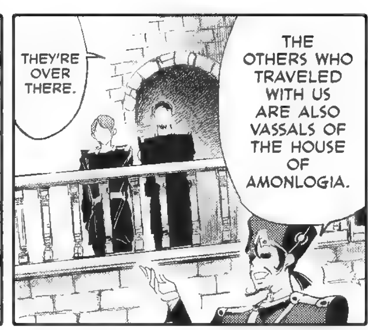
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE...

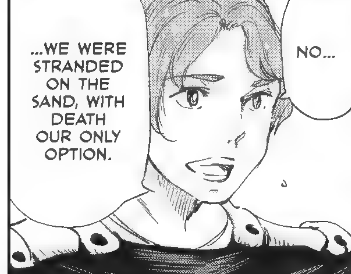
...TO GET US BACK HERE.

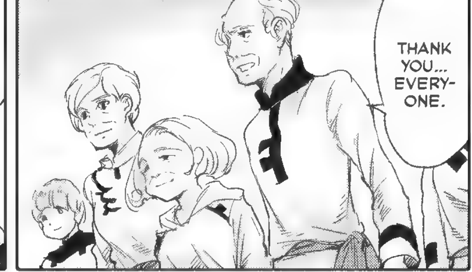


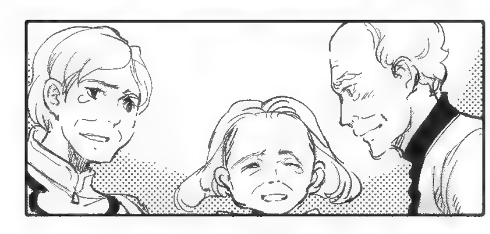



WELCOME.


THE OTHERS WHO TRAVELED WITH US ARE ALSO VASSALS OF THE HOUSE OF AMONLOGIA.
THEY'RE OVER THERE.

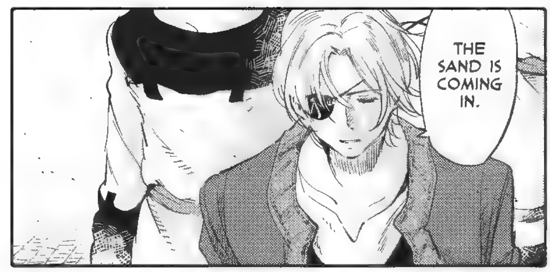

NO...
...WE WERE STRANDED ON THE SAND, WITH DEATH OUR ONLY OPTION.

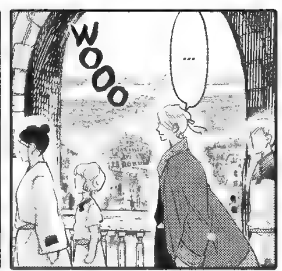

THANK YOU... EVERY-ONE.

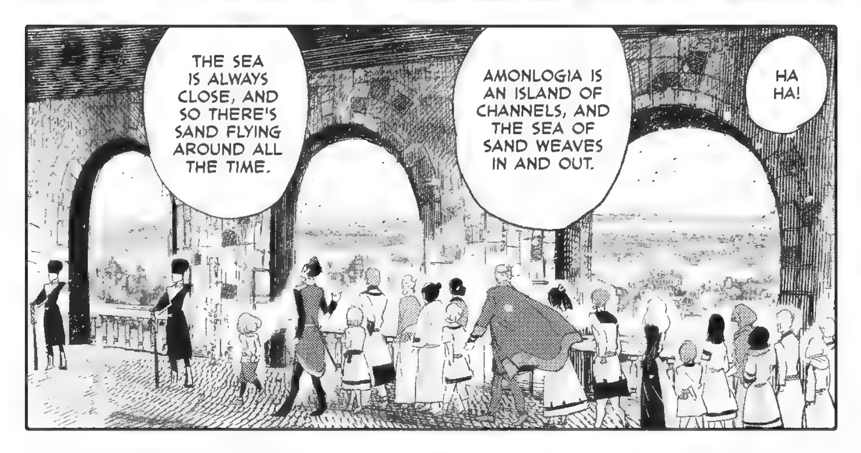


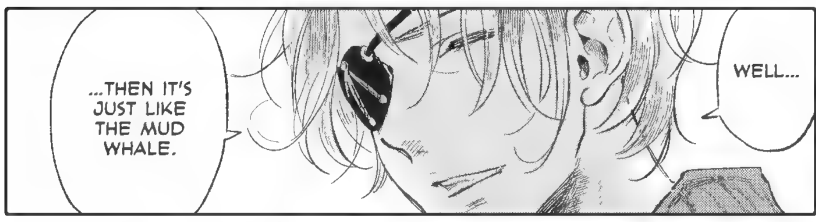

WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN TO SEE THAT YOU CAN LIVE HERE.
WE'VE TOLD LORD DÁCHTYLA OF YOUR SITUATION.


WE'RE IN YOUR HANDS ...


THE SAND IS COMING IN.


WOOO
...


HA HA!
AMONLOGIA IS AN ISLAND OF CHANNELS, AND THE SEA OF SAND WEAVES IN AND OUT.
THE SEA IS ALWAYS CLOSE, AND SO THERE'S SAND FLYING AROUND ALL THE TIME.

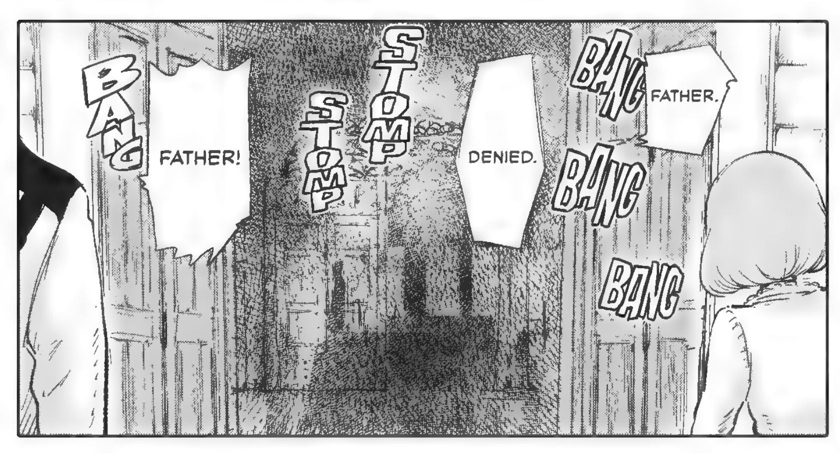

WELL...
...THEN IT'S JUST LIKE THE MUD WHALE.


SHUAN.
YOU'RE EVEN WORSE AT READING A ROOM THAN I AM!


WHY DID YOU COME?
FOR YOUR PROTECTION.
EVERYONE WAS WORRIED THAT THE UNMARKED WERE GOING ON THEIR OWN.


I NEVER...
... THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE THAT CONSIDER-ATE OF OTHERS.

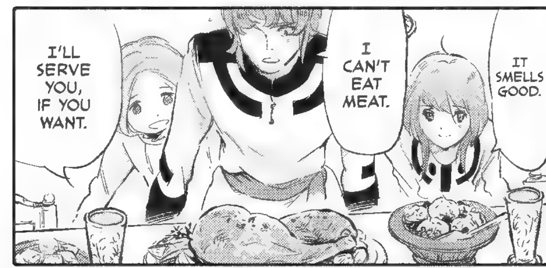

CREAK
WE'RE ALL READY TO WELCOME YOU.
NOK NOK
HIS GRACE LORD DÁCHTYLA, THE DUKE OF AMONLOGIA, IS IN HERE!
ZIP

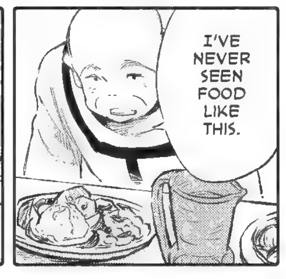

BANG
FATHER!
STOMP STOMP
DENIED.
BANG
FATHER.
BANG
BANG

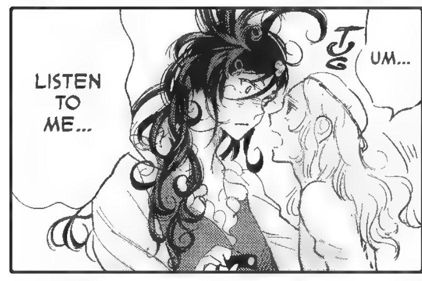

STOMP
STOMP
FAA-THERRR!!
BANG
DENIED!!
CRASH
BANG
I'LL PULL YOUR CURLS OUT BY THE ROOTS, YOU IDIOT!!
I WANT TO TAKE THIS MAIDEN AS MY MISTRESS!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
BANG
CRASH
BANG
THAT'S...
...LORD DÁCHTYLA...
Oh dear...


SHOVE
PLEASE, COME SIT DOWN.
HELP YOURSELVES.
BRING THE WINE!

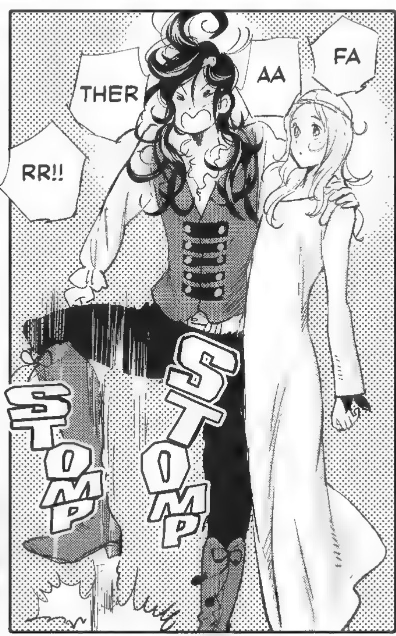

DON'T WORRY– JUST DO AS HE SAYS.
MY FATHER IS IMPATIENT.


I'LL SERVE YOU, IF YOU WANT.
I CAN'T EAT MEAT.
IT SMELLS GOOD.


I'VE NEVER SEEN FOOD LIKE THIS.

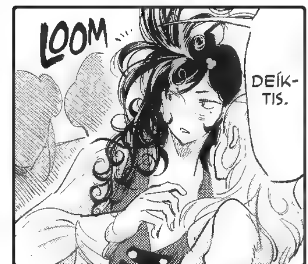

LISTEN TO ME...
TUG
UM...

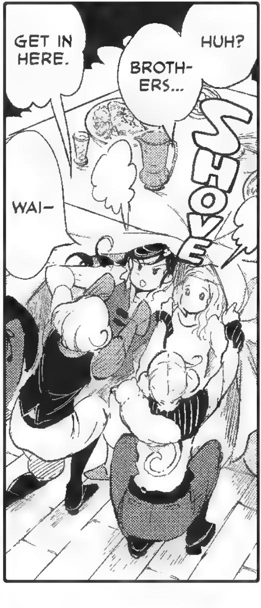

I WANT THE MARKED TO COME HERE...
...AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.


FA
AA
THER
RR!!
STOMP
STOMP


AS SOON AS WE CAN...
AS LONG AS THEY STAY ON THE MUD WHALE...
...THEIR LIVES ARE GOING UP IN FLAMES.

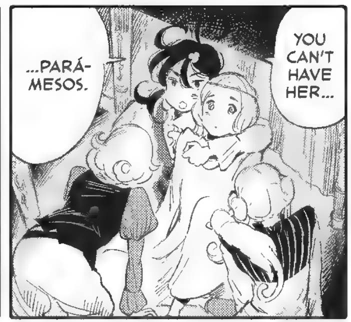

SO BEAUTIFUL...


LOOM
DEÍKTIS.

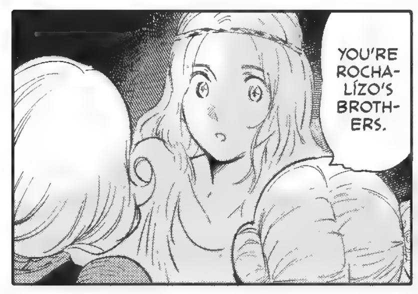

HUH?
BROTHERS...
GET IN HERE.
SHOVE
WAI—

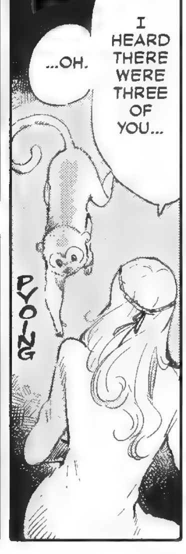

NICE TO MEET YOU.
LITTLE MONKEY.
VERY BEAUTIFUL.
SNIFF SNIFF
BUT SMELLS LIKE MILK.


I'M...
...ANTÍCHEIRAS.
I'M ROCHALÍZO'S...
...OLDER BROTHER.


YOU CAN'T HAVE HER...
...PARÁMESOS.

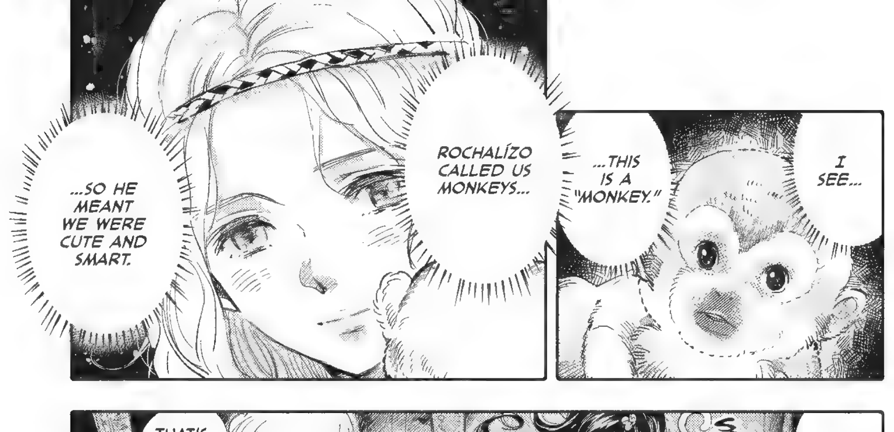

AND I'M PARÁMESOS.
THANKS FOR LOOKING AFTER ROCHALÍZO.


YOU'RE ROCHALÍZO'S BROTHERS.


I HEARD THERE WERE THREE OF YOU...
...OH.
PYOING


SQUANK
??
IT'S A MONKEY...
HAVE YOU NEVER...
...SEEN ONE?

HOW CUTE.
MONKEYS ARE SMART...
I WONDER WHICH ONE OF YOU IS SMARTER?


I SEE...
...THIS IS A "MONKEY."
ROCHALÍZO CALLED US MONKEYS...
...SO HE MEANT WE WERE CUTE AND SMART.


YOU CAN'T HAVE HER.
THAT'S OKAY, BROTHER DEAR...
SHE'S A BOY.


...
WHAT?!
HE'S VERY PRETTY...
...BUT YOU'RE A BOY, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU CAN TELL BY HIS VOICE.

NO...
HEE HEE
WHY DON'T YOU FIND OUT?
YOU KNOW...
HEH
HEH
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S SEE IF THIS MONKEY IS MALE OR FEMALE...
FATHER NEEDS TO SEE TOO.
HEH

YANK

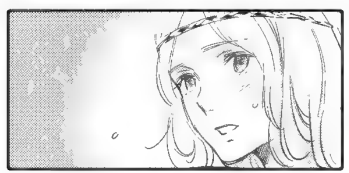
BROTHERS...
...TAKE YOUR SEATS.

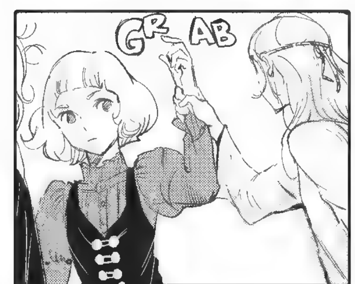


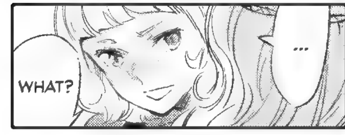
ROCHALÍZO...
THMP
HURRY UP AND TELL ME IF THIS IS A MAN.





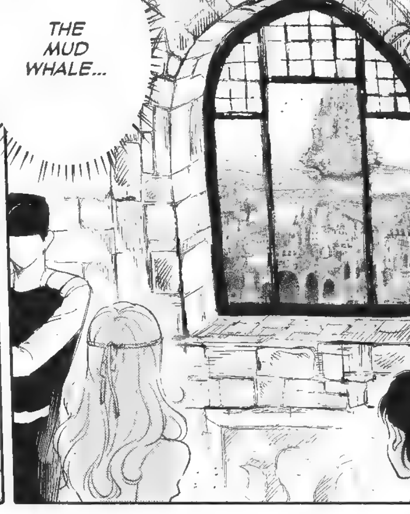


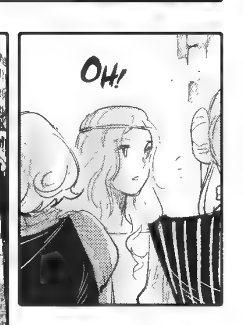

GRAB

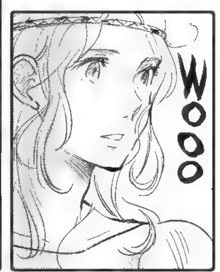

WHAT?
...

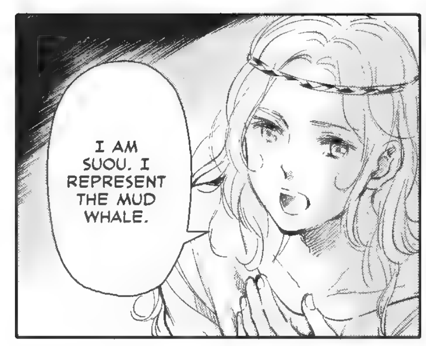
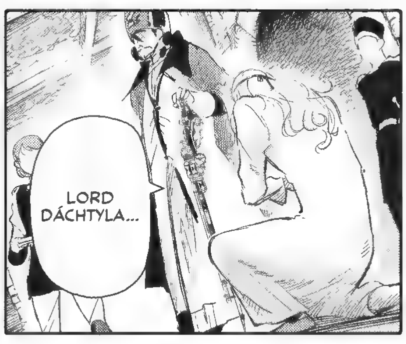
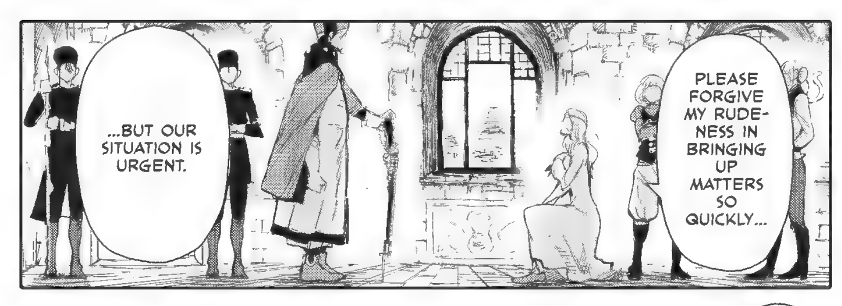

DO YOU THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU BROUGHT BACK A BUNCH OF MONKEYS...
SHFF
SHFF
...YOU'VE SOMEHOW BECOME IMPORTANT?


GLARE


THE MUD WHALE...


OH!

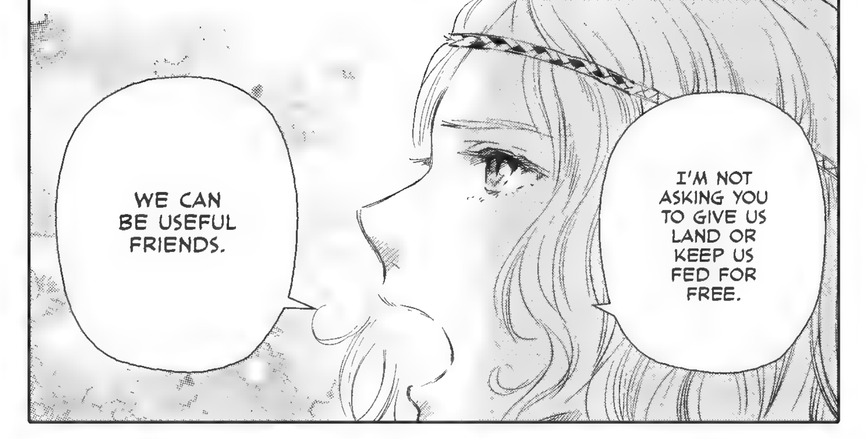

WOOO


I AM SUOU. I REPRESENT THE MUD WHALE.

LORD DÁCHTYLA...

PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS IN BRINGING UP MATTERS SO QUICKLY...
...BUT OUR SITUATION IS URGENT.

OUR RELATIVES, THE MARKED, ARE NOT DANGEROUS SORCERERS.
I CAN PROMISE THEY WILL BE WONDERFUL FRIENDS TO YOUR PEOPLE.

WE CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME...

...AND WE CAN'T LOSE ANY MORE PEOPLE.


I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO GIVE US LAND OR KEEP US FED FOR FREE.
WE CAN BE USEFUL FRIENDS.


PLEASE GRANT US NEW LIVES HERE.
AND PLEASE ALLOW US TO BUILD A VILLAGE WHERE WE CAN GOVERN OURSELVES.

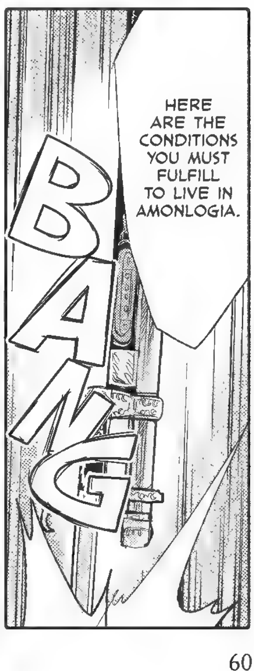

THE MONKEY CAN SPEAK WELL.


I LIKE CUTTING TO THE CHASE...
GÁMPA PESTERED ME TO PUT OUT A SPREAD FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE GOOD TO THEM.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WE'RE HAVING THIS BANQUET.


YOU DON'T STAND ON CERE-MONY, HMM...
SO YOU'RE THE REPRE-SENTATIVE OF THE ISLAND.
LET'S SEE.







ONE... ...YOU GIVE ME THAT SHIP.

TWO... ...YOU MUST PRESENT THOSE SORCERERS TO THE KING OF SUIDELASIA.

THAT IS ALL.


...
HUH?
MY FOURTH SON ROCHALÍZO APÓ AMONLOGIA HAS NO TITLE OR LANDS TO INHERIT.
HE IS TO GO TO BATTLE SOON AS A VASSAL OF THE KING OF SUIDELAISA.
SO I'M GIVING HIM YOUR SHIP AND THOSE SORCEROUS MARKED.
THEY WILL BE PUT TO USE AS SOLDIERS FOR SUIDELASIA TO PREVENT *THAT COUNTRY*...
...FROM ACHIEVING WORLD DOMINATION.

WHA ...?

WHAT IS...

LOOK...

...AT THIS LAND COVERED IN SAND.

EVERY YEAR, AMONLOGIA IS FURTHER ERODED BY THE SEA OF SAND.

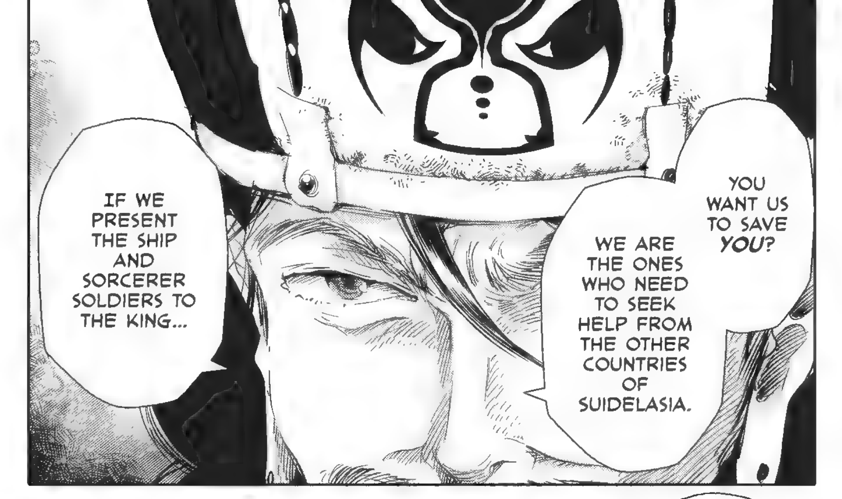
ONCE, AMONLOGIA PRODUCED PRECIOUS APOLÍTHOMA...

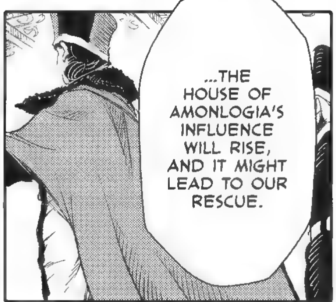
...AND THE ENERGY WE DEVELOPED FROM IT MADE US PROSPEROUS.

BUT NOW, TO GET AWAY FROM THE ERODING SHORES, WE SCURRY INLAND, STACKING BUILDINGS ATOP BUILDINGS.

WE LOOK LIKE AN OVER-FLOWING TOY CHEST.

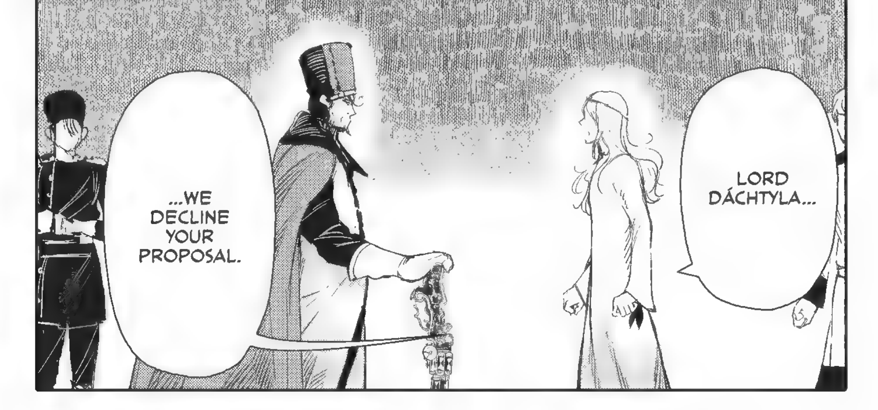
WHEN OUR LAND IS GONE, WE'RE DONE.







THAT'S ...
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN!
WE CAN'T LET THOSE CHILDREN FIGHT AGAIN!
AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE...
WE'VE COME ALL THIS WAY TO SAVE THE MARKED!


LORD DÁCHTYLA...
...WE DECLINE YOUR PROPOSAL.

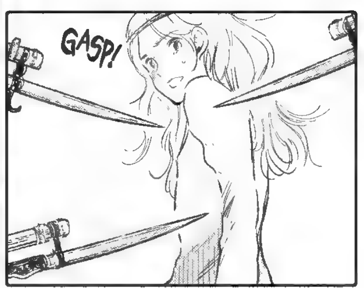

IF THERE IS A CRISIS HERE...
...WE CAN HELP *HERE*...
...BY WORKING AT ANYTHING OTHER THAN BECOMING SOLDIERS.

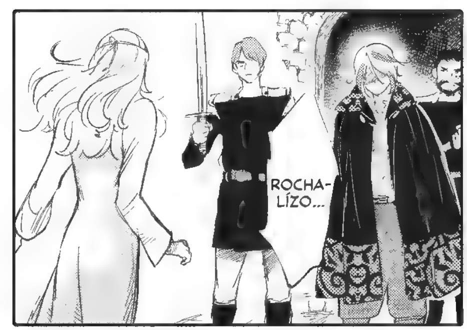

WE CANNOT FORCE THE MARKED TO FIGHT AGAIN...
NEVER AGAIN.

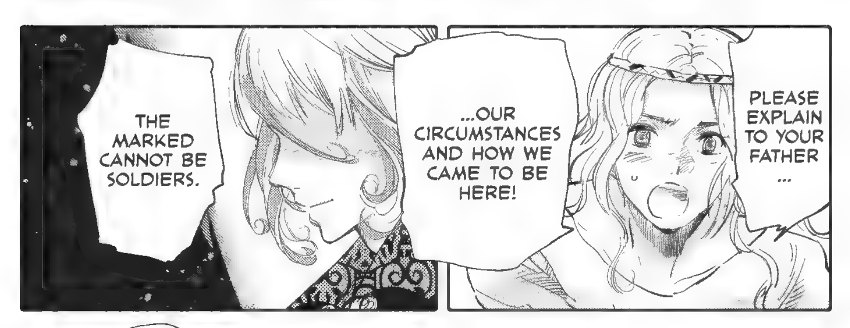

PLEASE THINK OF A DIF-FERENT WAY—
FWIP
YOU SEEM TO HAVE MISUNDER-STOOD.


THIS WAS NOT A PROPOSAL.
TROMP
CHAK


THIS WAS A COMMAND.
WE WILL HOLD YOU UNMARKED AS HOSTAGES.
THOSE SORCERERS WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME OUR INSTRU- MENTS...
...IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIVES.







YOU ...

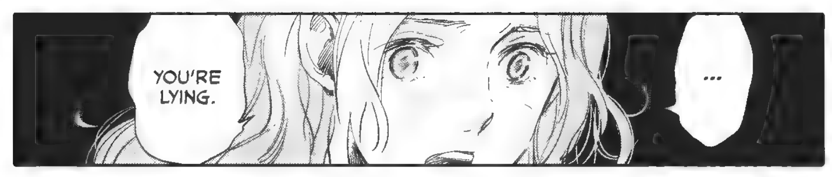
... SIMPLE, INNOCENT MONKEY ...

I...

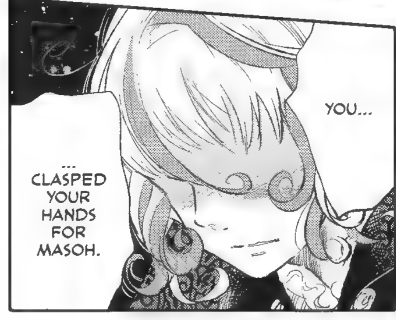
...AM THE ONE WHO PRESENTED THIS PLAN TO FATHER.

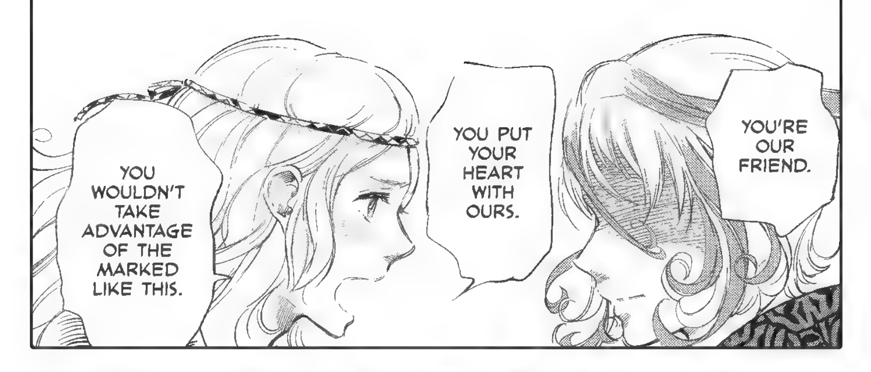
HUH ?


YOU STUPID BRAT.

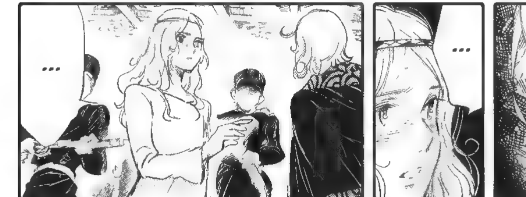
THIS WAS MY IDEA!!

...
YOU'RE LYING.

ROCHA-LÍZO...
...YOU'RE NOT LIKE THAT!

IT'S NOT A LIE.
IT HAS TO BE!

YOU...
...CLASPED YOUR HANDS FOR MASOH.


YOU'RE OUR FRIEND.
YOU PUT YOUR HEART WITH OURS.
YOU WOULDN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MARKED LIKE THIS.


HOW STUPID CAN YOU GET?


...
...


HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAN-NING THIS?


SINCE WE CAME ABOARD THE MUD WHALE...
...AND I SAW THE POWERS OF THE MARKED.

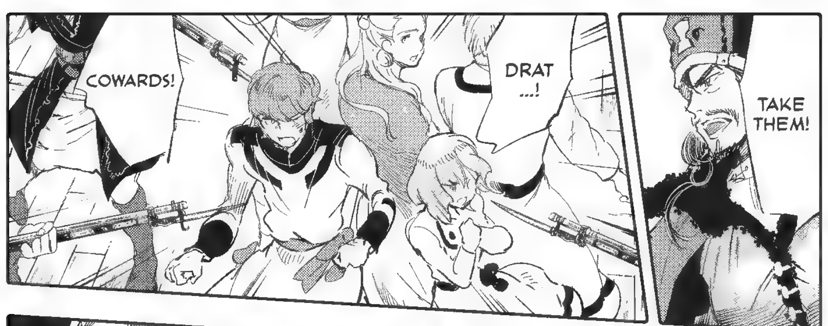

IT CAN'T BE...
RUSTLE


SIR ROCHA-LÍZO?!
DON'T THINK POORLY OF CHASMOURITÓ OR GÁMPA.
THEY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.


I PLANNED IT WITH ONLY A FEW OF OUR VASSALS.
FROM THE VERY BEGIN-NING...
...OUR GOAL WAS TO BRING YOU HERE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE SHIP AND THE MARKED.
IT'S A LIE!!
IT'S THE TRUTH!!
WE'RE THE SAME.


I WANT TO PROTECT AMONLOGIA AS PASSION-ATELY...


...AS YOU WANT TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF THE MUD WHALE.

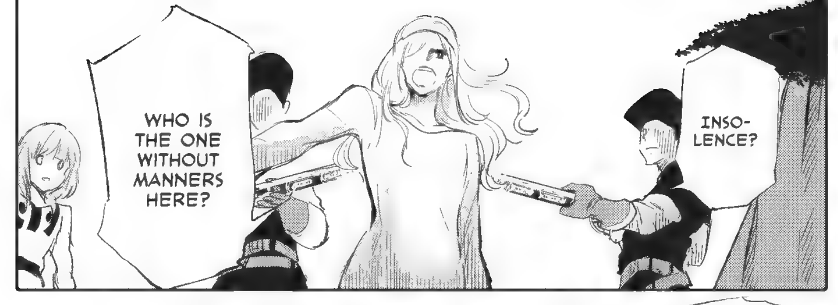

TAKE THEM!
DRAT ...!
COWARDS!


GRAB


LET ME GO...


JOLT


GIVE UP, BOY.
SHUT UP!!
INSOLENCE...
...AGAINST HIS GRACE!
?!
SUOU.


INSO-
LENCE?
WHO IS THE ONE WITHOUT MANNERS HERE?


FOR 93 YEARS, MY PEOPLE HAVE EXISTED BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THE REST OF THE WORLD...
...LIVING ON THE SAND AND RELYING ON NO ONE.
WE ARE NOT YOUR SUBJECTS OR YOUR SLAVES.


ALL WE DID WAS SAVE YOUR SON FROM SHIP-
WRECK...
...AND RETURN HIM TO YOU!


IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE UNREA-
SON-
ABLE...
...THEN WE WILL LEAVE.

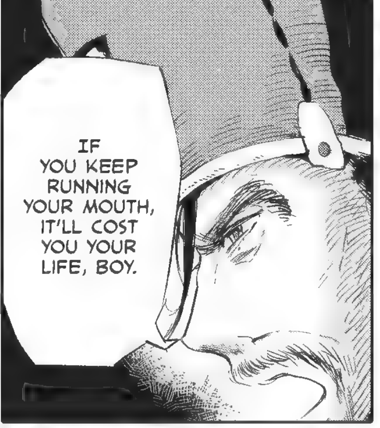

WE WILL FIND A LAND ELSE-
WHERE.

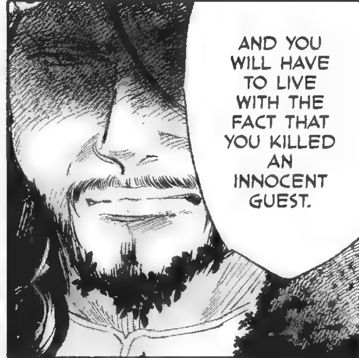
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO WASTE.

LET US THROUGH!

CHAK

MAYOR SUOU!


IF YOU KILL ME, THEN I LOSE ANY VALUE AS A HOSTAGE.

IF YOU KEEP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH, IT'LL COST YOU YOUR LIFE, BOY.

CAN A LEADER LIKE THAT PROTECT HIS PEOPLE?

AND YOU WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE FACT THAT YOU KILLED AN INNOCENT GUEST.

VOOM
OH DEAR ...
WHEN IT COMES TO THE MARKED, THE MAYOR...

I'D SAY THERE'S NO SETTLE-MENT TO BE HAD HERE.
ALTHOUGH I DOUBT THEY HAD ANY SUCH INTENTIONS TO BEGIN WITH.
ELDERS...


CAN I...
...USE MY SORCERY ...
...NOW?
SHUAN.
POKE
FWING
CLINK!!
MAYOR SUOU!
WOOSH

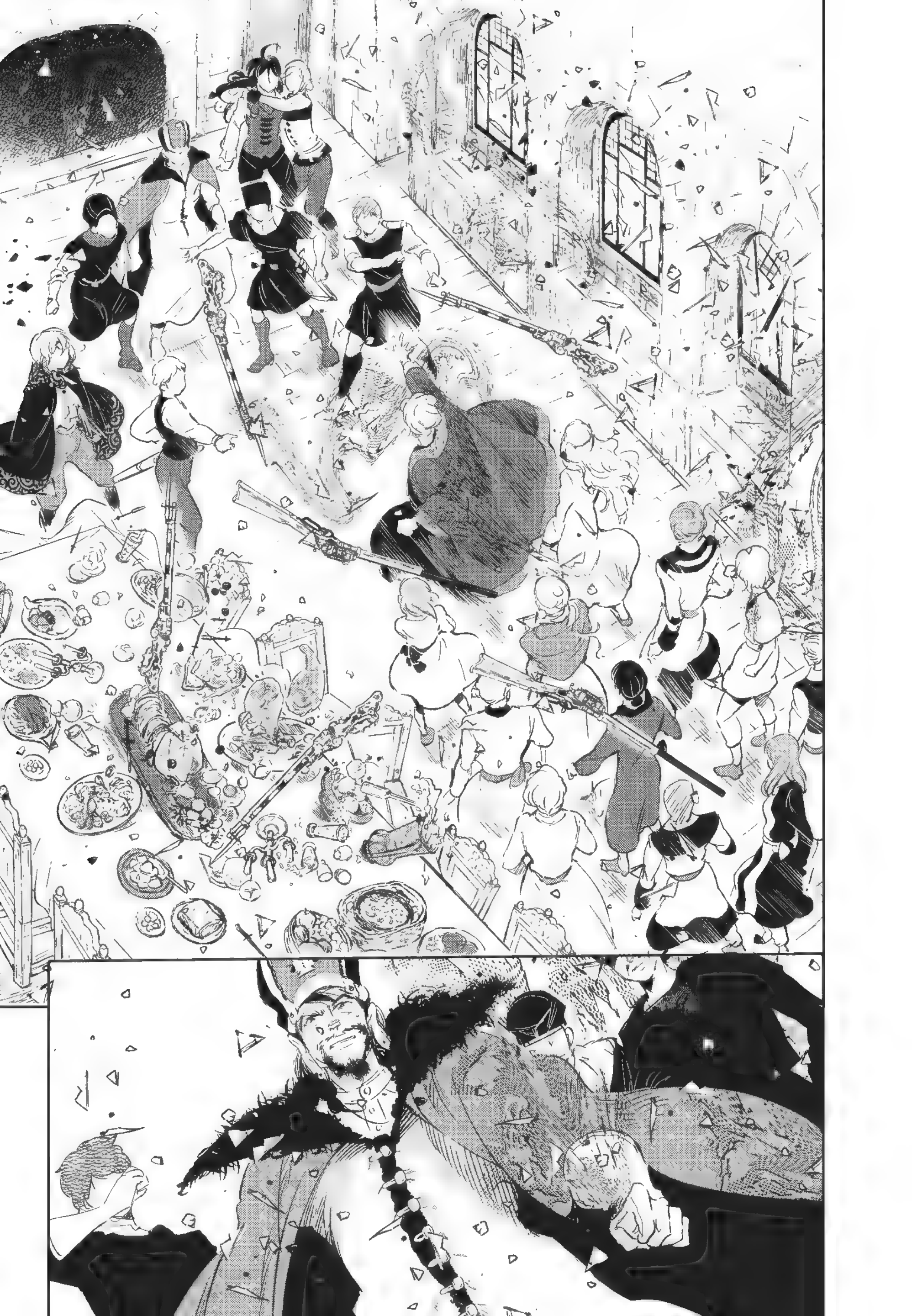

EXCUSE ME...
...BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THE INSOLENCE.
Chief to Chief -The End-


Chapter 36
After the Banquet


HYUUU
UUU
YOU...
ARE YOU A SORCERER?

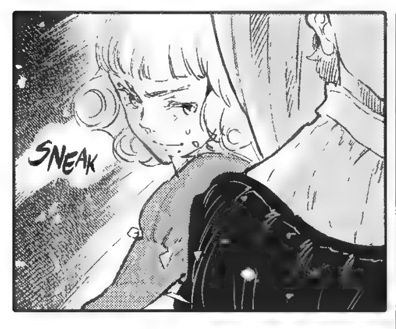

SHUAN...
WAS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?
NEGOTIATIONS AND NEW LANDS ARE MEANINGLESS NOW.
SO THE OUTRAGES HAVE FINALLY ANGERED YOU...
...MR. MAYOR.
WE'RE PERSECUTED NO MATTER WHERE WE GO...
...OR WHAT WE DO.
AND WE HAVE PUT UP WITH IT FOR FAR TOO LONG.
NOW...
...IT'S TIME...


CLANG
CLANG
...TO GET OUR REVENGE ...
HYUUUN
...ON THEIR BONE-HEADED WORLD!
CRACK
CRASH

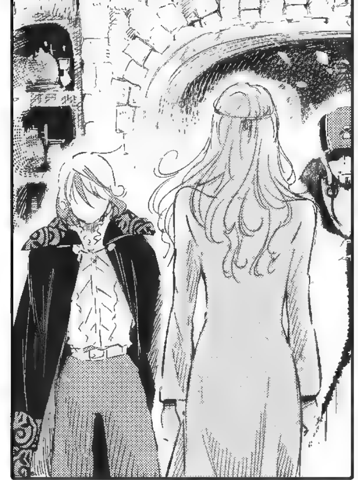
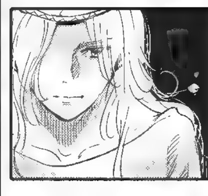


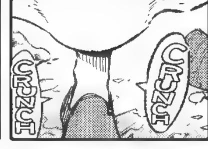
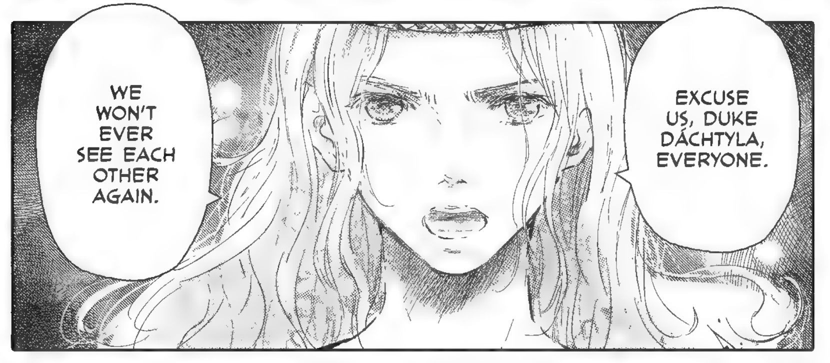
SHIIING


YOUR GRACE, TAKE COVER!


SNEAK


THERE ARE HUNDREDS MORE LIKE THAT ON THE ISLAND?
OH NO!

MR. MAYOR.

CRUNCH
CRUNCH

EXCUSE US, DUKE DÁCHTYLA, EVERYONE.
WE WON'T EVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

FWIP


...
CLANK
CLANK
BANG
BANG
SHRRR


ELDERS ...!
PARÁ-MESOS?!
GASP!

NOW...

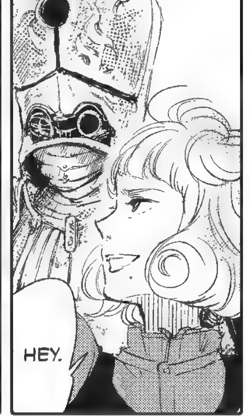
...THAT'S ENOUGH!

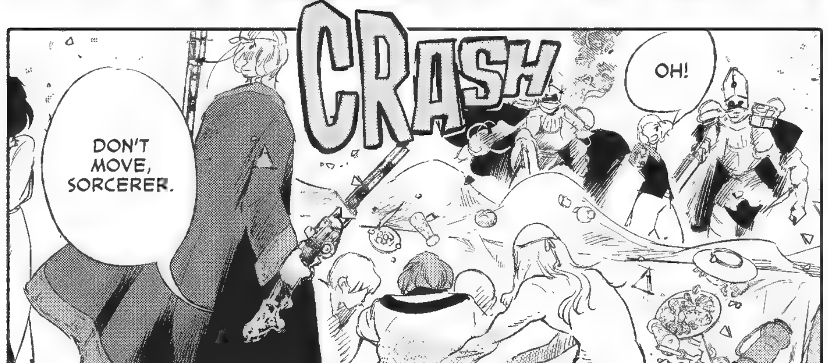







THNK
SHRRR

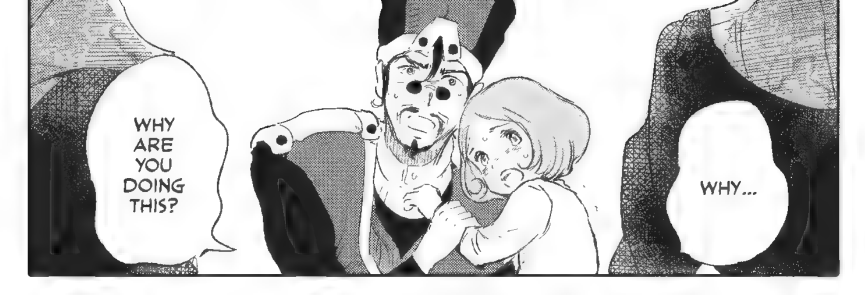

HEY.

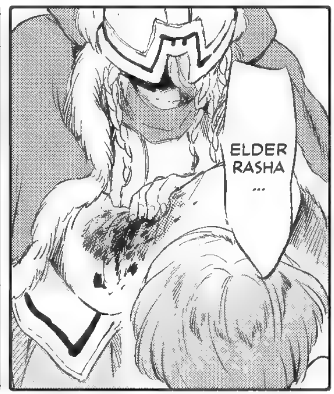
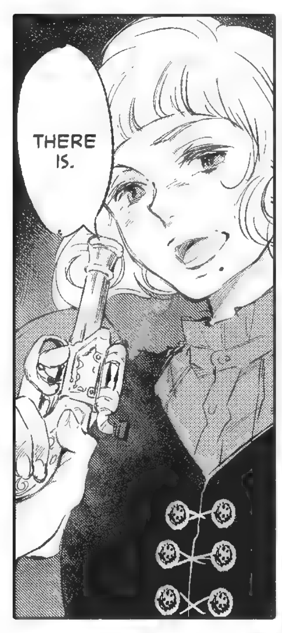

DON'T MOVE, SORCERER.
CRASH
OH!


SHUU


IF YOU ACT UP, I'LL GET THEM ALL.
OKAY?
KLAK
KLAK

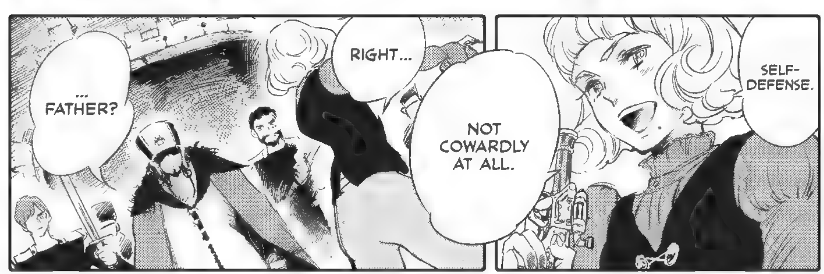

I TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE!!
BANG
CRASH
EEEEK!!
!


WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WHY...

THERE ...
... THERE'S NO REASON ...

ELDER RASHA ...

THERE IS.

...TO TREAT US LIKE THIS!
MIRU.

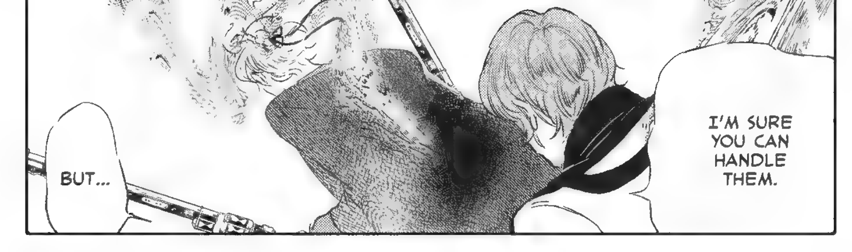

WE WELCOMED YOU IN, BUT YOU ABUSED OUR HOSPITALITY AND TURNED VIOLENT.
WELL...
...THANKS TO THAT ONE-EYED SORCERER, WE NOW HAVE A REASON TO DETAIN YOU MONKEYS.


SELF-DEFENSE.
NOT COWARDLY AT ALL.
RIGHT...
... FATHER?




WHY, YOU BRAT...
HYUUUU

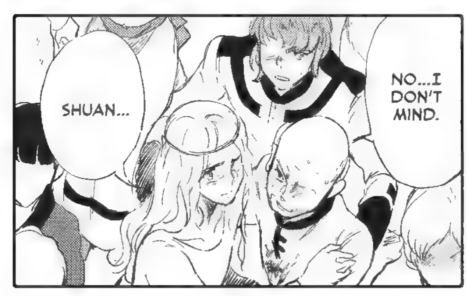

WAIT, SHUAN!!


I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THEM.
BUT...


...YOU'LL BE PUTTING OTHER LIVES IN DANGER.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO PROTECT ALL 38 OF US ALONE ...
...AND GET EVERYONE BACK TO THE MUD WHALE.

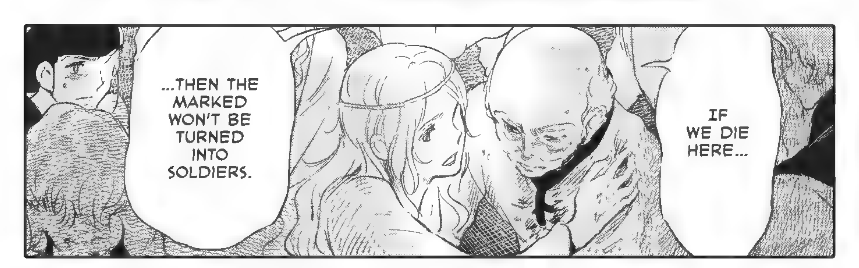

THEN ...
...DO YOU WANT ME TO LET MYSELF BE CAPTURED?

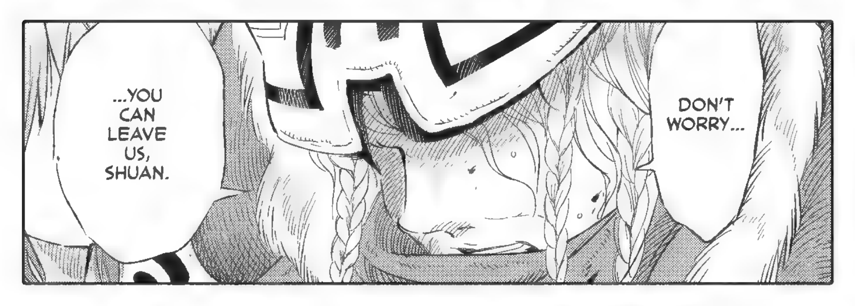

RIGHT NOW...
...I NEED YOU TO CALM DOWN AND BE RATIO- NAL.


NO...I DON'T MIND.
SHUAN...

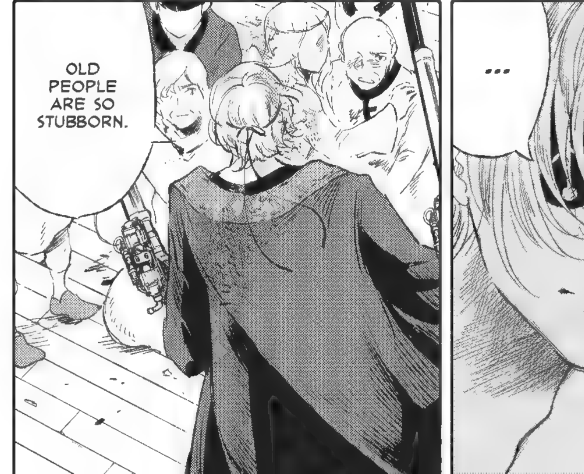

CAN YOU GET THE YOUNG ONES LIKE SUOU AND MIRU OUT?


ELDER?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?


IF WE DIE HERE...
...THEN THE MARKED WON'T BE TURNED INTO SOLDIERS.


DON'T WORRY...
...YOU CAN LEAVE US, SHUAN.


...


OLD PEOPLE ARE SO STUBBORN.


AND YOUR REASON IS ALWAYS THAT YOU DON'T WANT THE MARKED CHILDREN TO KILL OR BE KILLED.
CLANG
COM-MAND-ER.
...
LITTLE BOY...
...IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?


GRAB
SWOOSH
COM-
MAND-
ER!
THUD
SLAM


CLICK
THUD
DON'T KILL HIM.


COMMANDER!
YANK
LET GO OF ME!




HOW CAN I STOP HIS SORCERY?
EVEN IF WE BREAK HIS ARMS AND LEGS, IT APPEARS HE CAN MANIPULATE THINGS WITH JUST HIS THOUGHTS.
WHAT A PAIN.


HE SEEMS TO BE RELYING ON VISUAL INFORMATION FOR HIS POWER.
HIS VISION, I SEE.
SHA


SHWISH


TAKE THEM ALL.
SHUAN!


SQUEEZE
UNH...
COM-MAND-ER!
GRAB
TAKE THEM AWAY!


WELL, THAT WAS A FUTILE STRUGGLE, WASN'T IT, CHIEF OF A SMALL SHIP ON THE SAND?
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD YOU CANNOT DEFY.
SQUEAK
...

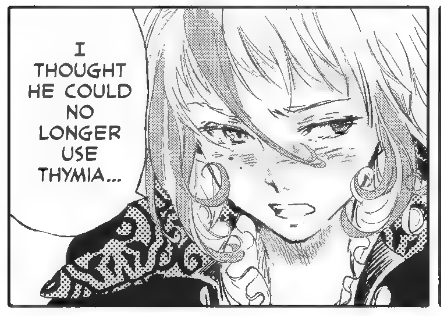

W-WE WILL...
...RETURN TO THE MUD WHALE...
...AND, ONCE AGAIN, LOOK FOR A NEW LAND!

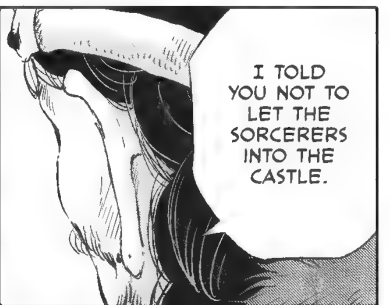
WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP!



[redacted]

I'M SORRY, FATHER.

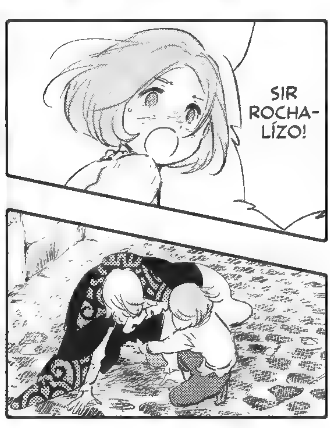


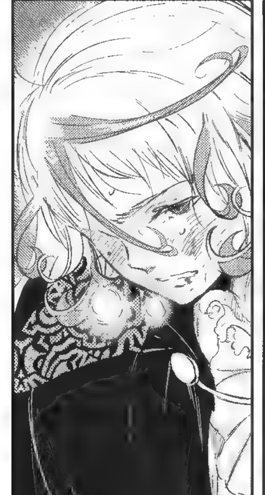





SKS
SSH


PTUI
...

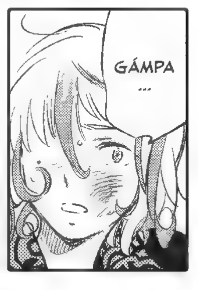

SIR ROCHA-LÍZO!



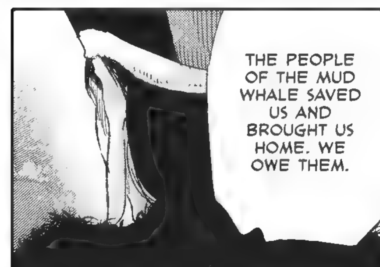

USELESS AS EVER.

YOU LOST A TOOTH ...

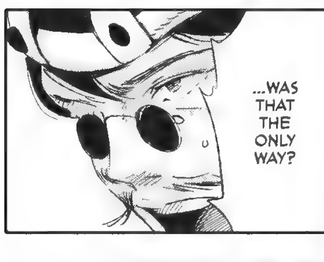

P-
PLEASE...
...WAIT A
MOMENT...
...LORD
DÁCHTYLA!

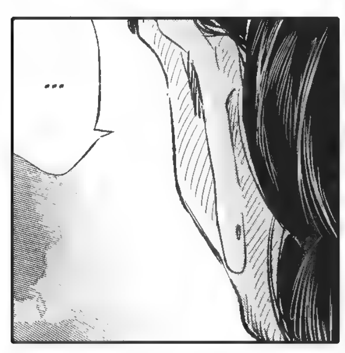

GÁMPA
...


D-DON'T
YOU
THINK
YOU ARE
BEING
UNFAIR?


THE PEOPLE
OF THE MUD
WHALE SAVED
US AND
BROUGHT US
HOME. WE
OWE THEM.


IT ISN'T
LIKE YOU
TO DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.
HAVE
THINGS ON
AMONLOGIA
REALLY
BECOME
THAT DIRE?
REALLY,
TRULY...


...WAS
THAT
THE
ONLY
WAY?

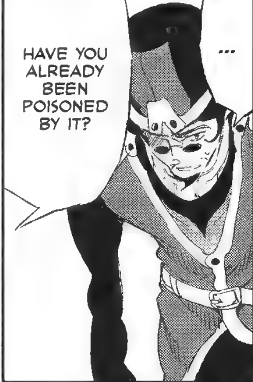

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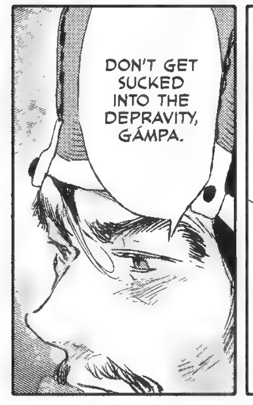

IT'S ODD, BUT I DON'T HAVE A RATIONALE.
?
IF ANY-THING...
...IT'S THE DEVILISH NATURE OF THAT ISLAND.
SOME THINGS ARE OBVIOUSLY ABHORRENT AT FIRST GLANCE.
THAT SHIP IS BEAUTIFUL...
IT'S SIMPLE, ASTOUNDING AND DIVINE...

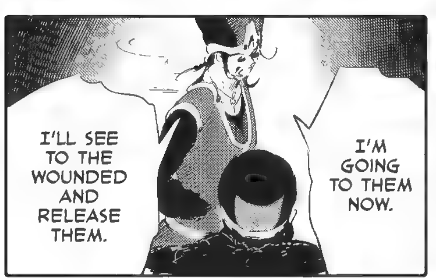
IT IS A CURSE ON THE WORLD, TAINTED BY SIN.

AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE UPON IT HAVE NO IDEA. THEY'RE TERRIFY-ING.
EVIL WITHOUT KNOW-LEDGE OF THEIR OWN EVIL.
IF YOU LET DOWN YOUR GUARD, THEY WILL TAKE YOUR SOUL.
LIKE THAT YOUNG LEADER.
THAT SORT OF THING IS DANGEROUS.











IN SPITE OF WHAT YOU SAY...

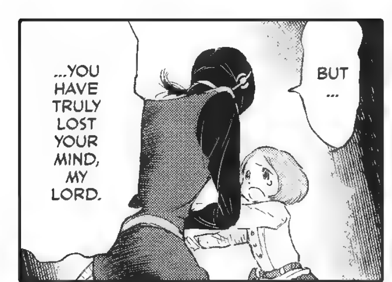
NO!

YOU WILL NOT, GÁMPA!

GRAND-FATHER ?!

GÁMPA!


I'M FINE...
IT JUST GRAZED ME.

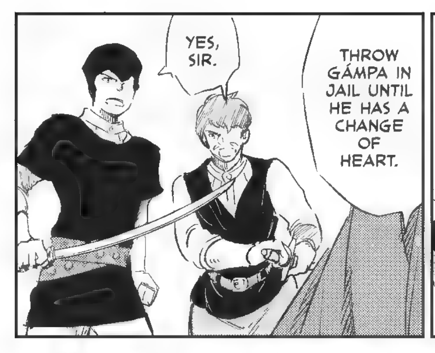

BUT ...
...YOU HAVE TRULY LOST YOUR MIND, MY LORD.


I'M TELLING YOU...
...IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF THAT SHIP!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BROUGHT THAT THING HERE.


BUT IT'S SO VERY ATTRAC-TIVE...
I CAN'T LET IT GO NOW.


THEN PLEASE LET THEM IN...
LORD DÁCHTYLA, YOU'VE ABANDONED YOUR FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR STRANGERS!



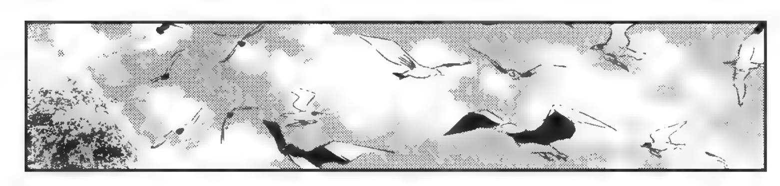




SIR...

...SIR ROCHALÍZO ...

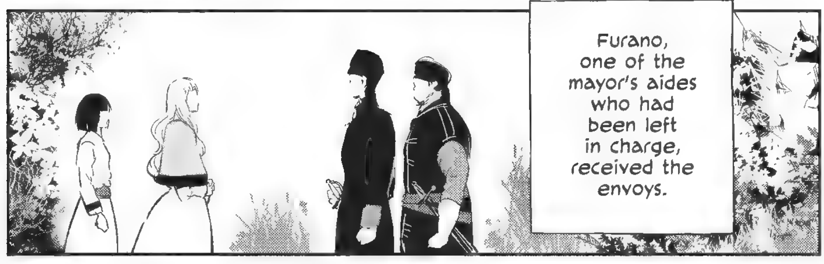


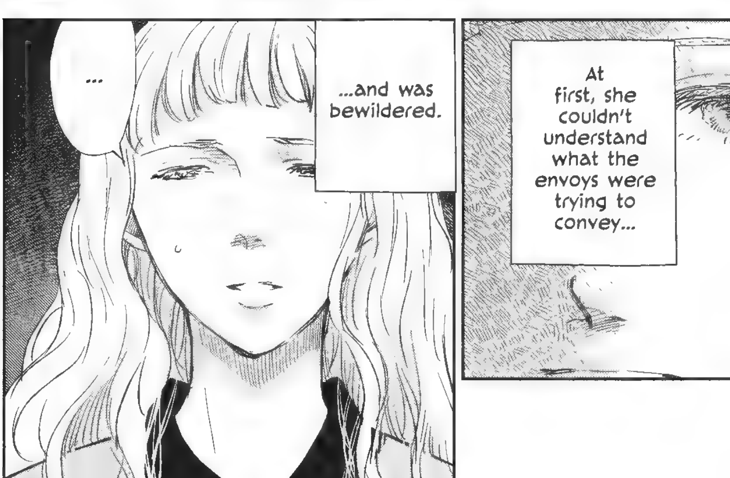


The day after the Unmarked went ashore...

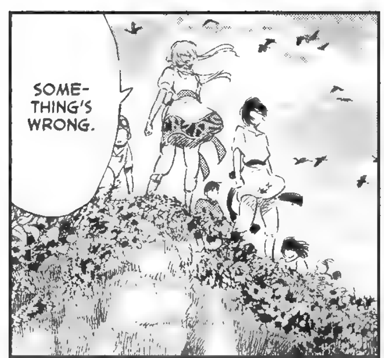
...an envoy ship arrived at the Mud Whale.

DO YOU THINK SUOU AND THE OTHERS ARE BACK?

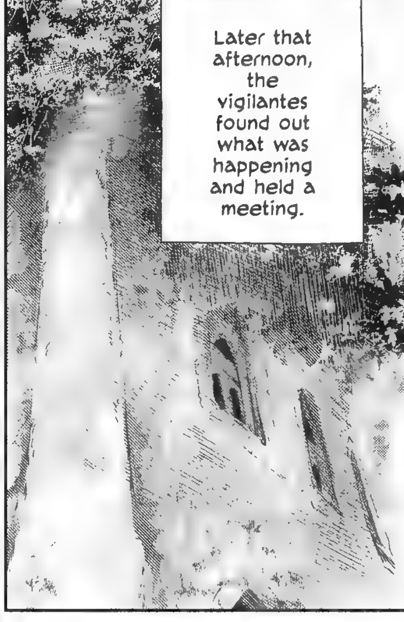


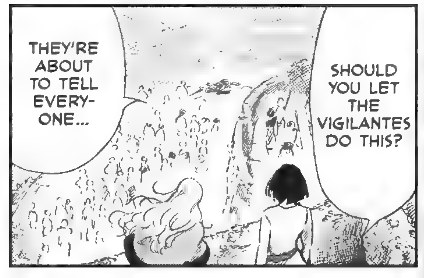



I'LL CONSULT WITH THE REMAINING UNMARKED ...
...AND WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARKED AND THE VIGILANTE CORPS...

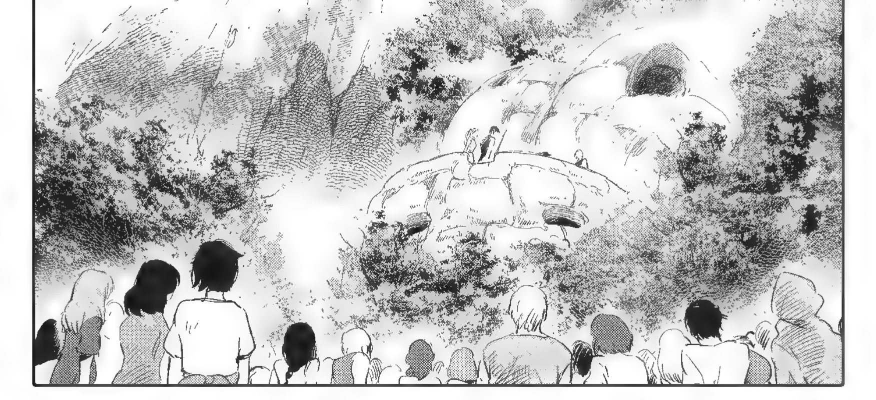

SOMETHING'S WRONG.

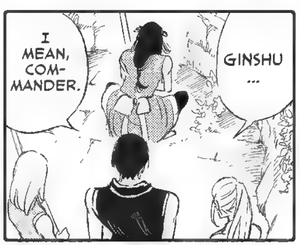



Later that afternoon, the vigilantes found out what was happening and held a meeting.


SHOULD YOU LET THE VIGILANTES DO THIS?
THEY'RE ABOUT TO TELL EVERYONE...


I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO ANYMORE.




GINSHU...
I MEAN, COM-MANDER.


YOU EXPLAIN IT.

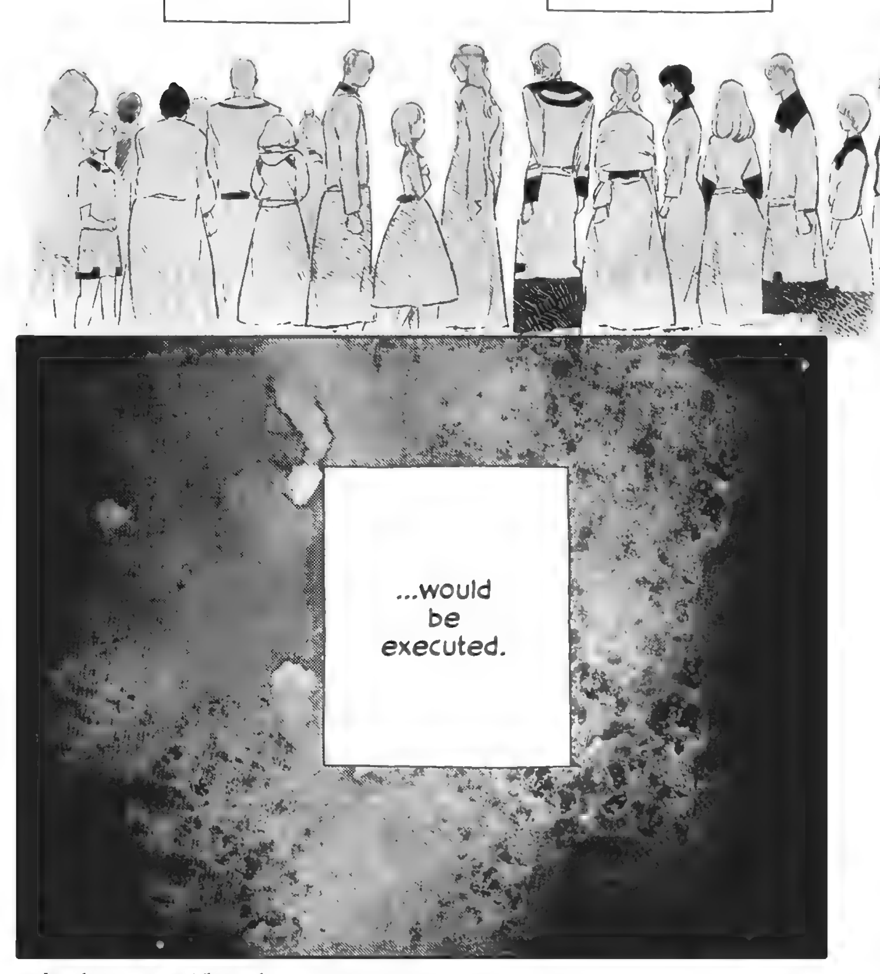

I DON'T THINK I CAN SPEAK CALMLY!
THUNK


...
I'VE GOT IT.

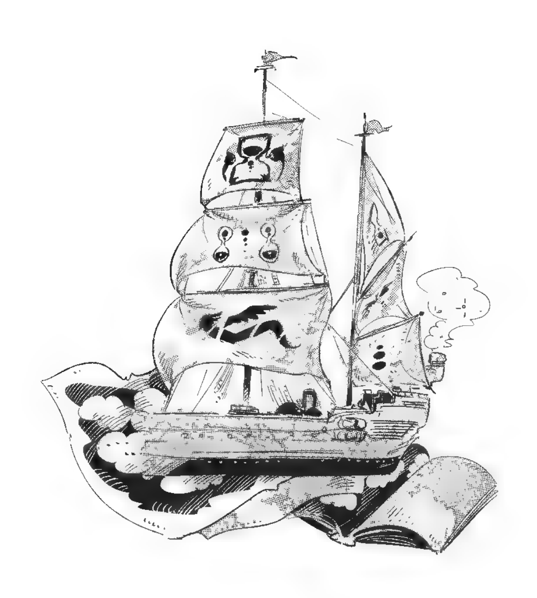

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE.
WE'VE HAD A REQUEST...
...FROM THE AMONLO-GIAN ENVOYS.



The envoys' shocking request...
...was to select the most capable of the Marked...
...and send them and the Mud Whale to fight for the king of Suidelasia.
It was presented as a unanimous decision that the mayor and the other Unmarked had come to during the negotiations.
And if we rejected the proposal...



After the Banquet -The End-




The four brothers of Amonlogia
Parámesos (third born)
Antícheiras (first born)
Deiktis (second born)
Rochalizo (fourth born)


We were headed for new lands where our ancestors' crimes couldn't reach us.
...AND A QUIET FUTURE.
WE JUST WANT PEACE...
But...
IF WE MARKED DON'T BECOME SOLDIERS FOR SUIDELASIA...
...THEY'LL EXECUTE THE 38 UNMARKED WHO ARE ALREADY IN AMONLOGIA.
The trials of the children of the Whale continue...


Chapter 37
O Weak Ones


O weak ones,
One by one by one
the bud of your flames
sharpened by many
thorns and wind,
one by one
are extinguished.
O weak ones,
the dark, dark
eyes of your profile
with uneven rusted
teeth and blades
break off
in white pieces.
O weak ones,
in a dawn illusion swallowed
by a parade of reapers
one by one,
one by one
they disappear.


WE'RE GOING TO BE SOLDIERS FOR THEIR KINGDOM?!
NO WAY.
NEVER MIND THAT! WHAT DO THEY MEAN, THEY'LL EXECUTE THE UNMARKED?
THEY'VE GOT TO BE KID-DING.
I KNOW! HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING?!
WILL THEY KILL MAYOR SUOU AND THE OTHERS?
THIS ISN'T WHAT THE UNMARKED TOLD US WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
DIDN'T WE COME TO AMONLOGIA SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT ANYMORE?
NO, THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.
BUT THAT'S WHAT THE ENVOY FROM AMONLOGIA SAID.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO LIVE HERE... WHAT HAPPENED?


WE HAVE TO SAVE SUOU AND THE ELDERS.
CHA-KURO.


WE HAVE TO SAVE THE UNMARKED!!


HUH?!
O WEAK ONES ...

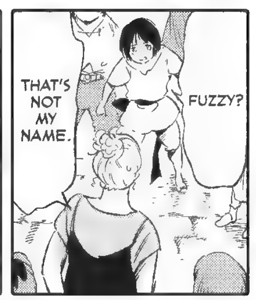

NO NEED TO SAVE THE UNMARKED.

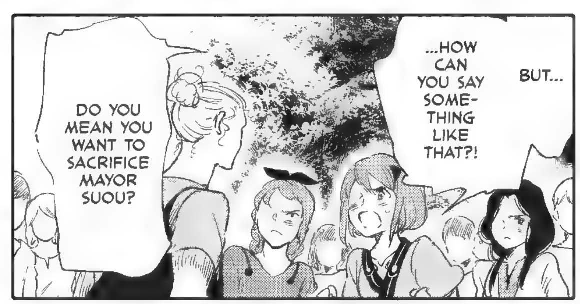

WE'RE...
SHUU
SHIKON, SHIKOKU.


ONE BY ONE THE BUD OF YOUR FLAMES ...


...GOING TO SET SAIL!
WHAT ?!
WE'LL ABANDON THE MAYOR AND THE OTHER UNMARKED AND CONTINUE OUR TRAVELS...
...AND THEN WE'LL BE SAFE. IT'S SO SIMPLE.
ALL RIGHT...
...EVERY-ONE WHO AGREES, TAKE A STEP FORWARD.
HEY!
YOU DON'T GET TO SPEAK DURING THIS MEETING!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THIS ISN'T AN OFFICIAL MEETING.

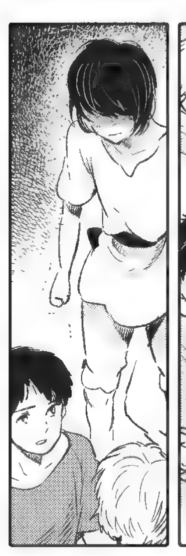

IT'S OUR BEST OPTION.
WE'LL LOSE FAR MORE OF US IF WE BECOME SOLDIERS AND FIGHT THE EMPIRE...
...THAN IF THE UNMARKED ARE EXECUTED.


FUZZY?
THAT'S NOT MY NAME.

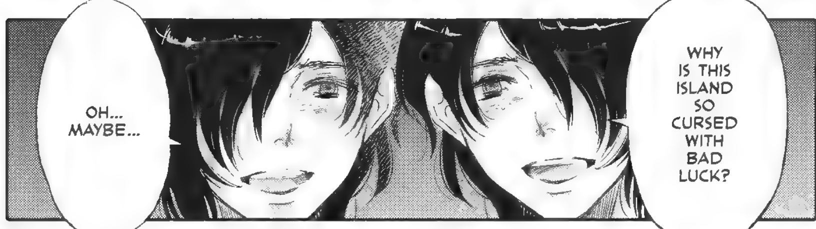

BUT...
...HOW CAN YOU SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!
DO YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO SACRIFICE MAYOR SUOU?


THAT SAME SUOU...


...IS WILLING TO SACRIFICE ALL OF YOU...
...TO SAVE HIMSELF.
THE ENVOYS SAY THE UNMARKED ARE ALL IN FAVOR OF THIS PLAN.







POIT

SHAA

...IT'S *HER* FAULT.

THAT GIRL FROM THE EMPIRE, PRETENDING TO BE OUR ALLY.

MAYBE SHE ORCHESTRATED ALL OF THIS IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE MUD WHALE.




HY
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING !!
UU
HYUUUU
HEY!
CLANG
CLANG
DESTROYER...
...YOU IDIOT!
CLANG CLANG
BE MAD AT THE AMONLOGIANS, NOT US!
CLLANG


STOP, CHAKURO!
HEY, COMMANDER, STOP...
...HIM—
GOOD!
GO GET 'EM, CHAKURO !!
COMMANDER GINSHU ?!
AH
AH
FURANO.
...
STOP IT!
IT WASN'T US...
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
...
TAKE CHAKURO INTO CUSTODY ...
AND GINSHU TOO, FOR ENCOURAGING HIM.


CHA-
KURO
...

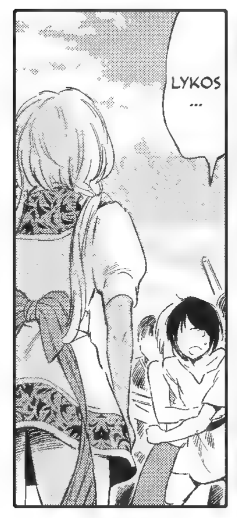

I LIKE MAYOR SUOU AND THE ELDERS.
I BELIEVE LYKOS TOO.


AND I DON'T TRUST THE TWINS.
BUT...

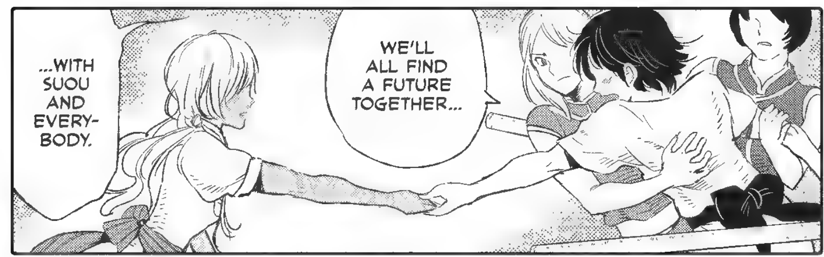

...I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT...
...ABOUT WHAT WE NEED IN ORDER TO SECURE OUR FUTURE.
IT'S A REVOLUTION.


ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YEAH, TOBI.


I WON'T GO ALONG WITH A PLAN TO SAVE THE UNMARKED AT THE COST OF THE MARKED.

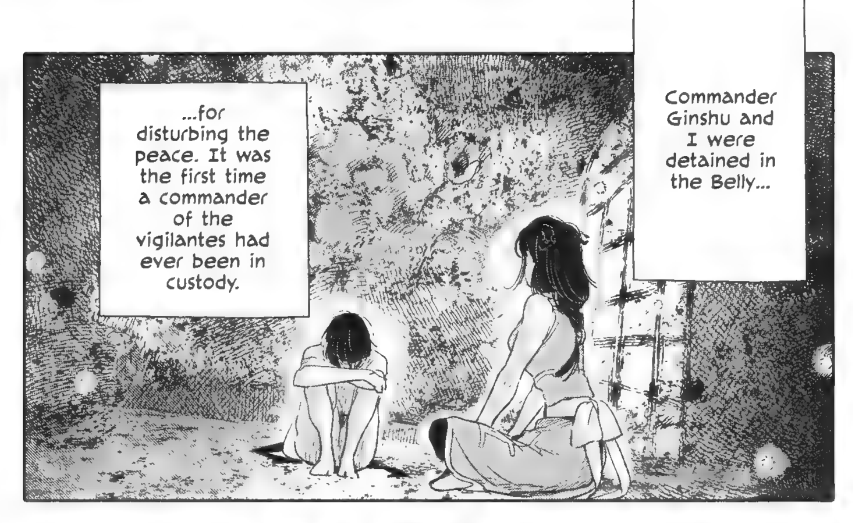

LYKOS
...


NO ONE DOUBTS YOU.
MASOH SAID...
...THAT WHEREVER WE ARE IS WHERE YOU BELONG.

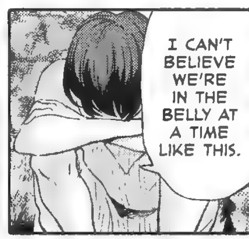

WE'LL ALL FIND A FUTURE TOGETHER...
...WITH SUOU AND EVERYBODY.


...
OKAY.




Commander Ginshu and I were detained in the Belly...
...for disturbing the peace. It was the first time a commander of the vigilantes had ever been in custody.


CHAKKI ...


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE IN THE BELLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS.


DON'T WORRY, FURANO WILL SPRING US SOON.

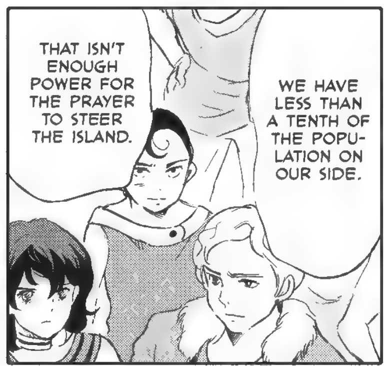

SUOU...
SUOU IS GOING TO BE KILLED.


TMP
IT'LL BE FINE.

THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND.

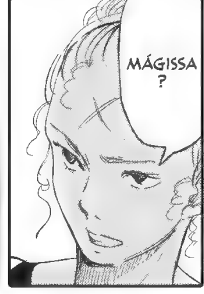














MÁGISSA SINGS US HER PROPHECIES.

SHE'S BEEN SINGING ALL DAY.

"O WEAK ONES, ONE BY ONE BY ONE THE BUD OF YOUR FLAMES...

...ONE BY ONE ARE EXTINGUISHED."


"WEAK ONES"...
WE'LL ERASE ANY SIGNS OF THE UNMARKED.
WE'LL LEAVE NEW RECORDS IN THE SEA OF SAND.


AND BESIDES, OUNI DIDN'T SHOW UP THIS TIME.


I GUESS LAST TIME REALLY GOT TO HIM...
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE COULD GET OUNI ON OUR SIDE.



ONE BY ONE...

...ONE BY ONE...

...THEY DISAPPEAR.

We only had three days to agree to the proposal...

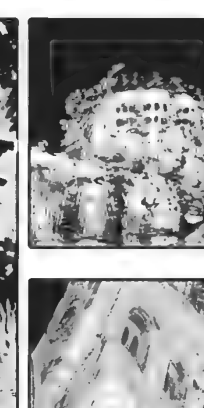
...the Amonlogian envoys had brought us.

In three days, Suou and the others would be killed.


The first night fell on the island.

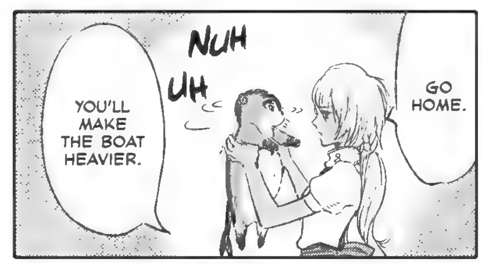









CREAK
ZSSH
ZSSH


GO HOME.
NUH UH
YOU'LL MAKE THE BOAT HEAVIER.


HAMMY.
PO-NG


SIGH


I DON'T THINK...
ZSSH
HYUUU
...I CAN FIND A HOME ANY-WHERE.


I CAN'T PROPEL THE BOAT VERY FAR BY MYSELF.

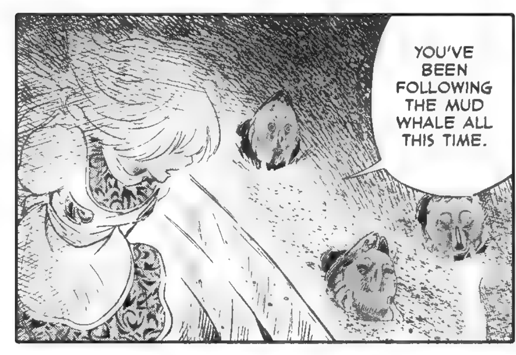

I WAS BORN THERE...
...AND I'M THE SISTER OF THE MAN WHO TOOK SO MANY LIVES ON THE MUD WHALE.


IT'S JUST THAT... EVEN IF I NEVER REALLY BELONGED ON THE MUD WHALE...
...I WAS HOPING TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP THEM.


BUT...

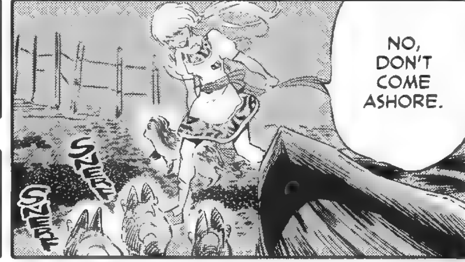

...IF I STAY THERE...
...THE TWINS WILL USE ME TO FURTHER THEIR GOALS.
AND THEY COULD USE THAT AGAINST CHAKURO AND THE OTHERS...


CREAK

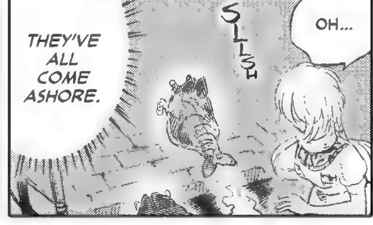

YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE MUD WHALE ALL THIS TIME.


KAMIN-GAINO?


SHH
ROCHA-LÍZO WILL BE UPSET.
SHOVE
SKWESH


NO, DON'T COME ASHORE.
SNERF
SNERF


THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DRAWN TO THE DEVIL KING, THAT CATALYST FOR GLOBAL UPHEAVAL.


OH...
SLLSH
THEY'VE ALL COME ASHORE.

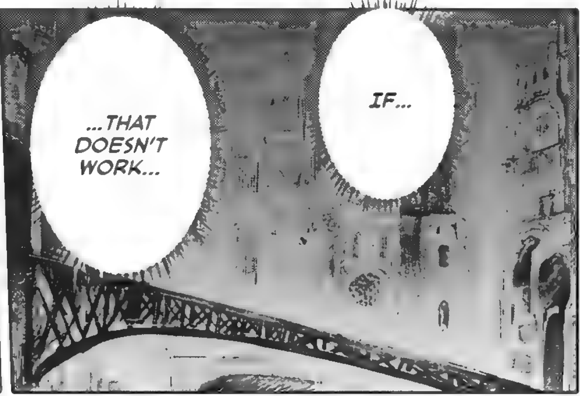

KYUUU!
GRR
NO FIGHT-ING.


I'M NOT THE DEVIL KING, AM I?


THE ENVOYS' SHIP WENT DOWN THIS CANAL.
THEY SHOULD BE SOME-WHERE UP AHEAD.


IF I CAN FIND HIM...
...WE MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE SUOU AND THE OTHERS.

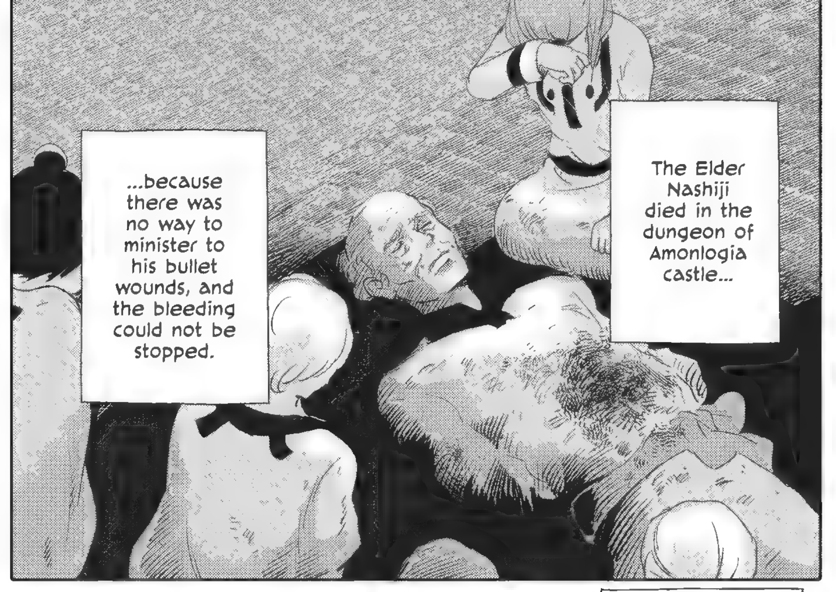

SHUAN IS THERE WITH THE UNMARKED.

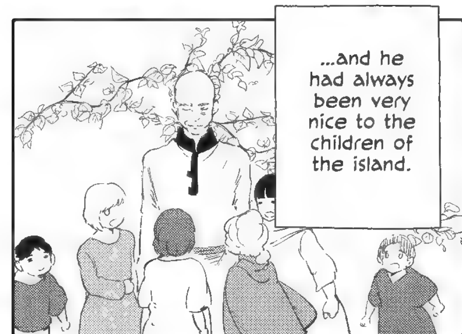
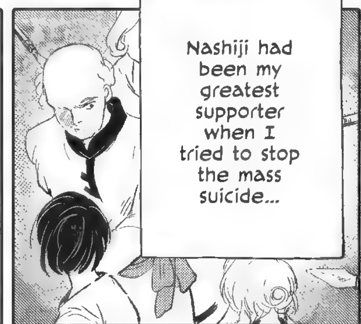

IF...
...THAT DOESN'T WORK...




...THEN
I MAY NOT
BE ABLE TO
GO BACK.
BUT IF I
CAN HAVE
JUST
ONE WISH
GRANTED...
...CAN I
PLEASE
RETURN
TO THE
MUD
WHALE?
CHAKURO
...




The Elder Nashiji died in the dungeon of Amonlogia castle...
...because there was no way to minister to his bullet wounds, and the bleeding could not be stopped.



Nashiji had been my greatest supporter when I tried to stop the mass suicide...
...and he had always been very nice to the children of the island.

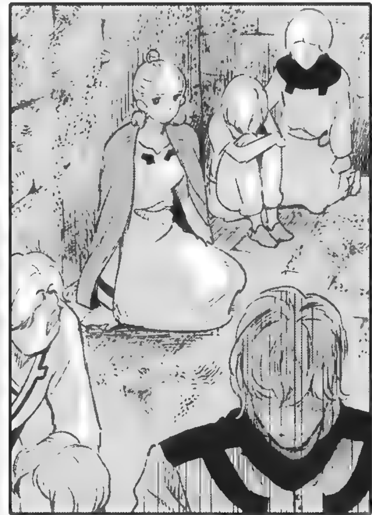


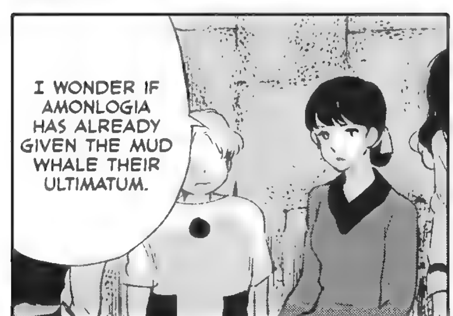
An Unmarked in his forties suffered the same fate.

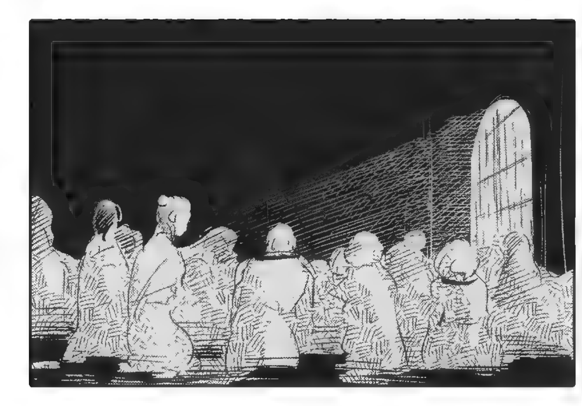

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
MASOH ...
GRAB


WHY DON'T I HAVE THE POWERS YOU DID?
WHY CAN'T I PROTECT THE MARKED ...?
I CAN ONLY WATCH AS MY COMRADES DISAPPEAR.

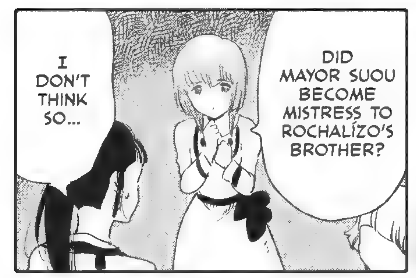


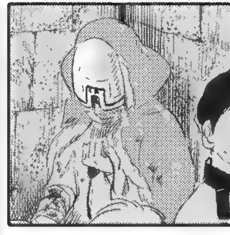



I WONDER IF AMONLOGIA HAS ALREADY GIVEN THE MUD WHALE THEIR ULTIMATUM.



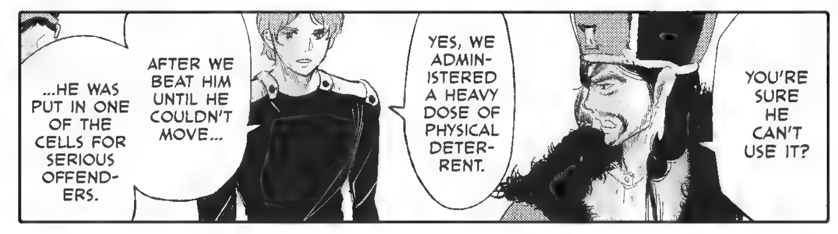
WE CAN'T TELL ANYTHING FROM HERE.

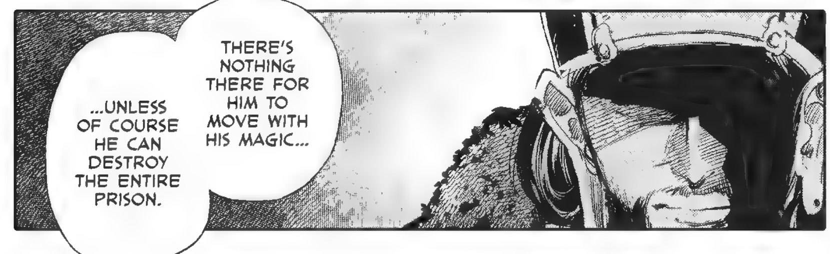
I WONDER WHERE MAYOR SUOU AND THE COMMANDER ARE BEING HELD?
WHY ARE THEY KEEPING THEM SEPA-RATE?

DID MAYOR SUOU BECOME MISTRESS TO ROCHALÍZO'S BROTHER?
I DON'T THINK SO...

THEY SEEM VERY WARY OF SHUAN.


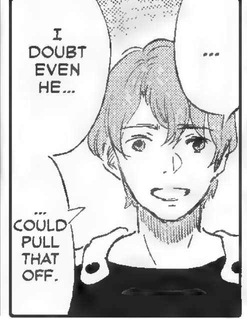

RASHA ...


IS THAT SORCERER TAKEN CARE OF?
YES...
WE MADE SURE HE CAN'T USE HIS MAGIC.

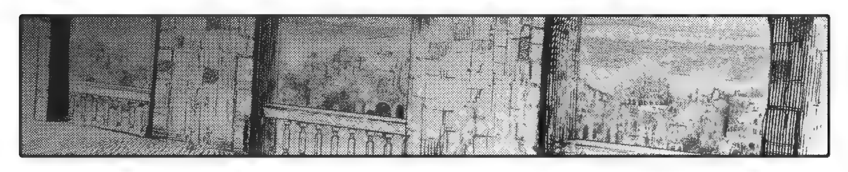

YOU'RE SURE HE CAN'T USE IT?
YES, WE ADMINISTERED A HEAVY DOSE OF PHYSICAL DETERRENT.
AFTER WE BEAT HIM UNTIL HE COULDN'T MOVE...
...HE WAS PUT IN ONE OF THE CELLS FOR SERIOUS OFFENDERS.


THERE'S NOTHING THERE FOR HIM TO MOVE WITH HIS MAGIC...
...UNLESS OF COURSE HE CAN DESTROY THE ENTIRE PRISON.

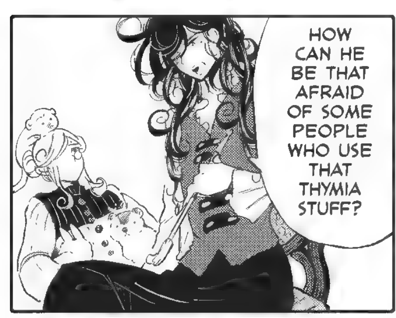

...


...
I DOUBT EVEN HE...
... COULD PULL THAT OFF.


ARE YOU SURE HE CAN'T?




OUR FATHER HAS BECOME FEARFUL.


HOW CAN HE BE THAT AFRAID OF SOME PEOPLE WHO USE THAT THYMIA STUFF?


FATHER?


HE'S AFRAID OF *THEM*.


FATHER WAS ONCE THE COMMANDER OF THE KING OF SUIDELASIA'S GUARD SHIP.
YEAH, BUT HE WAS UP AGAINST SAND PIRATES BACK THEN.
WHATEVER YOU THINK, FATHER HAS NEVER BEEN UP AGAINST THE MAGIC-WIELDING SOLDIERS FROM *YOU-KNOW-WHERE*.

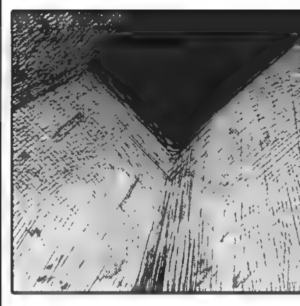
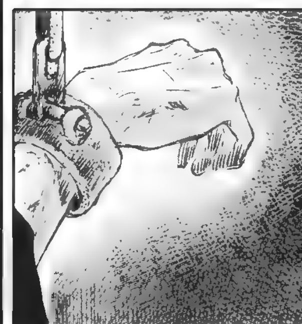
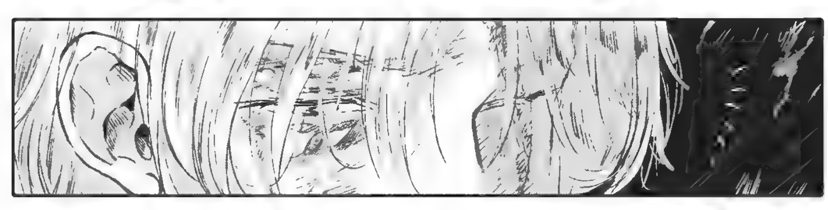

...


OH!
QUIT SMOKING. IT'S BOTHERING MY BABIES!


SNUGGLE



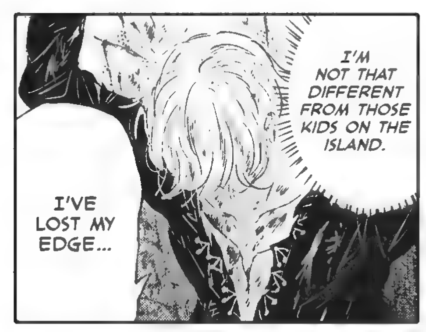



...THEY MUST REALLY BE AFRAID OF THYMIA USERS.
OH DEAR...




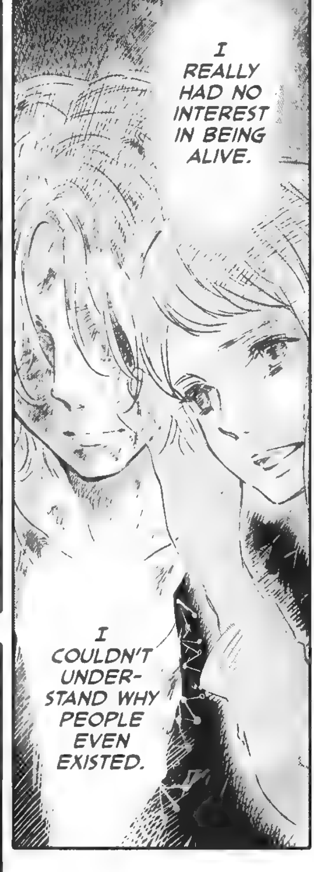
DON'T LAUGH AT ME.

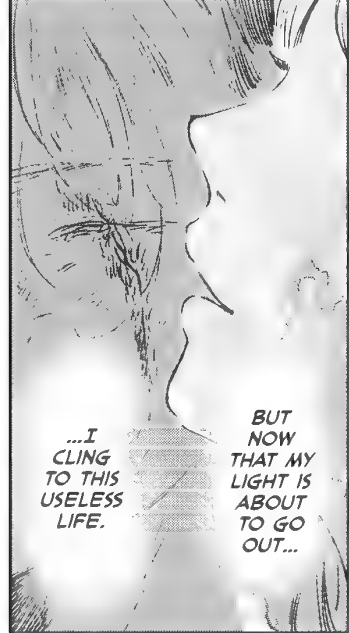

SIENNA?


I MUST BE DESPERATE...
...IF I'M SEEING MY DEAD WIFE.


I'M NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM THOSE KIDS ON THE ISLAND.
I'VE LOST MY EDGE...


SIENNA...
I WONDER WHY?


I REALLY HAD NO INTEREST IN BEING ALIVE.
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE EVEN EXISTED.


BUT NOW THAT MY LIGHT IS ABOUT TO GO OUT...
...I CLING TO THIS USELESS LIFE.

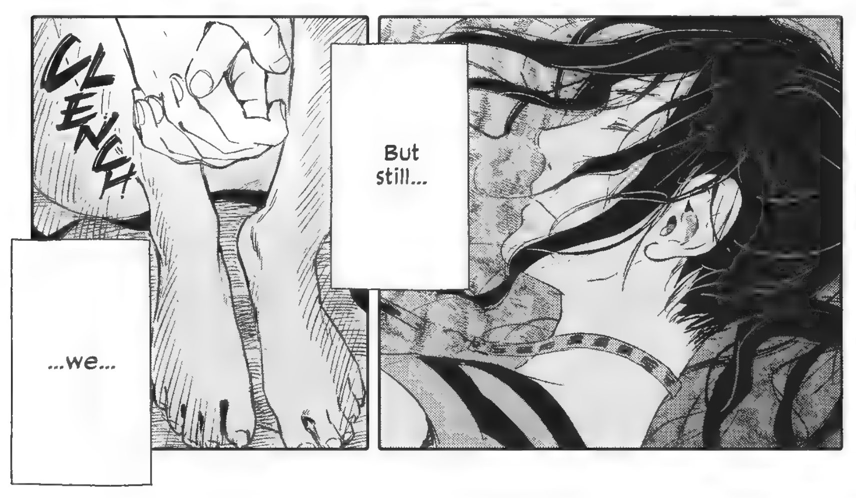

I'M SORRY, SIENNA...
EVEN THOUGH I CAUSED YOUR DEATH...

I DON'T WANT TO DIE.




...one by one...
...they disappear.


We are all...
One by one.
...weak ones, fearful for the sake of something important.


But still...
CLENCH
...we...





...GOING TO BECOME A SOLDIER FOR SUIDELASIA.

O Weak Ones -The End-


Chapter 38
What Is Our Happiness?


WOOO
OH!
HOW ABOUT OVER THERE?
NOT HERE

ARE THEY AFTER ME?

HURRY, HAMMY.

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A LOOKOUT AT THE HARBOR.

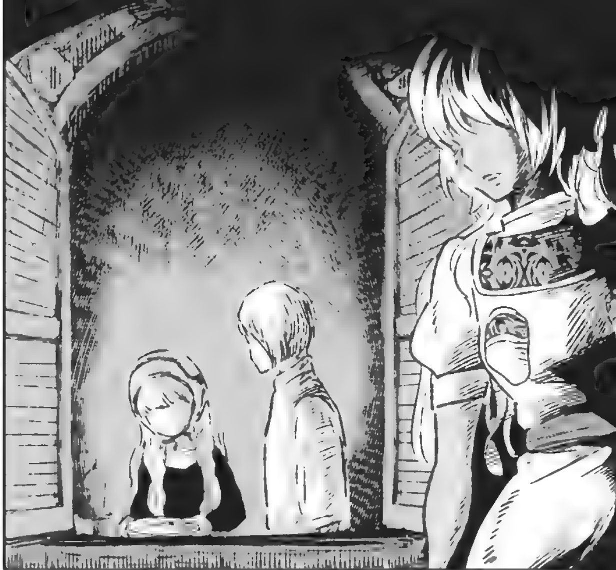
THEY MUST'VE SEEN MY AURA WHEN I WAS PROPELLING THE BOAT.

I'LL STAND OUT IF I STAY ON THE CANAL.

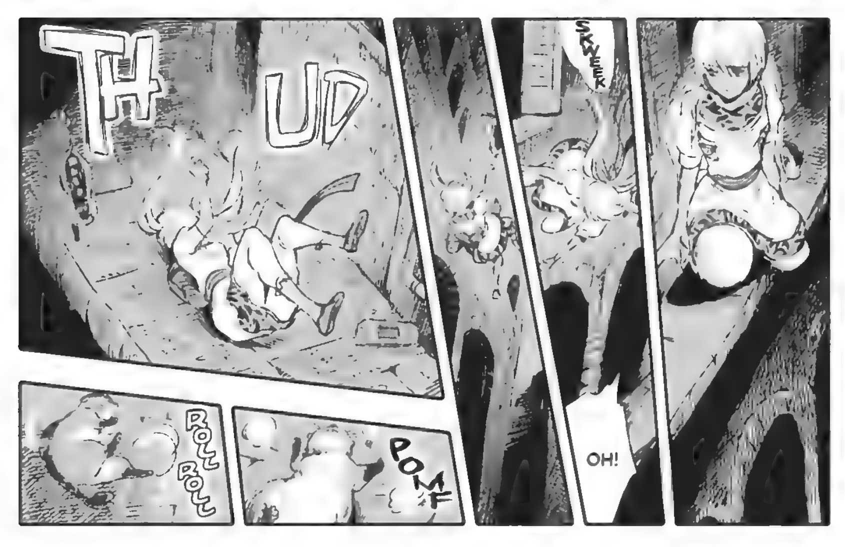
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STICK TO THE ALLEYS.

!



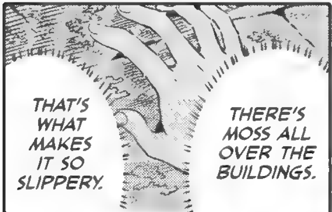





THUD
SKWEEK
OH!
ROLL ROLL
POMF

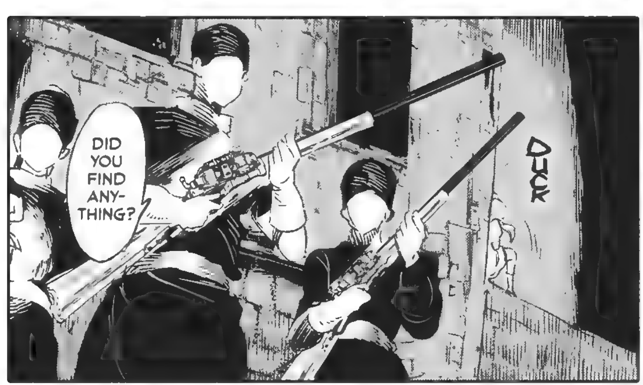

ARE YOU OKAY, HAMMY?


...
SHIVR

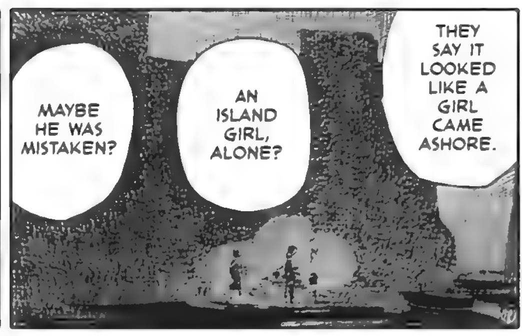

THERE'S MOSS ALL OVER THE BUILDINGS.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO SLIPPERY.


I'M OKAY.
I WONDER IF THOSE KIDS WERE SIBLINGS?


THE MOSS HERE HAS A SUBTLE GLOW...
THAT'S WHY THE WHOLE TOWN HAS A SLIGHT SHINE TO IT.


DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?
DUCK


HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
JOLT


THEY SAY IT LOOKED LIKE A GIRL CAME ASHORE.
AN ISLAND GIRL, ALONE?
MAYBE HE WAS MISTAKEN?


IS IT A PERSON?
AN ANIMAL? WHAT IS THAT?




I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
COULD IT BE AN ANGEL?


PHEW...
A KAMIN-GAINO ...


HAMMY ...
...LET'S HIDE HERE FOR A WHILE.



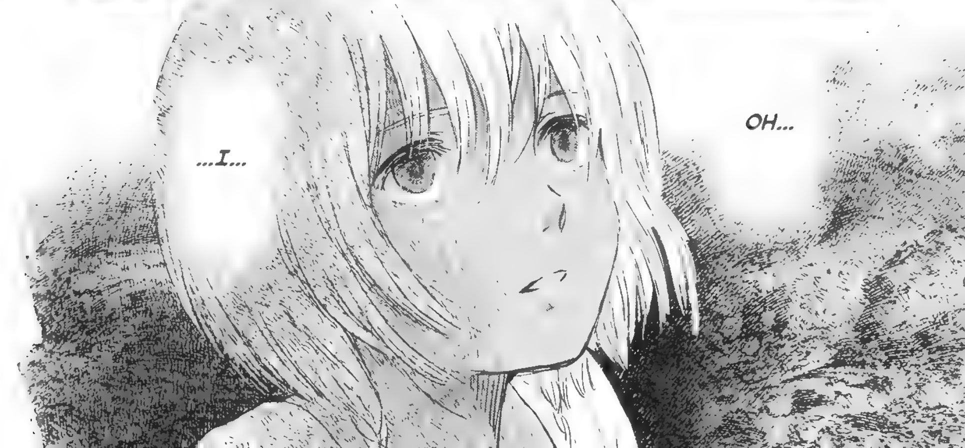
IT'S LIKE THAT TIME...

...I HAD TO WAIT...

...FOR A LONG TIME BY MYSELF...

...IN THAT SMALL BLACK HOUSE THAT NEVER GOT ANY SUN.

ORCA?




...BELONG ON THAT BLACK WALL...
...AND NOT SOME-WHERE WARM AT ALL.
THE DAWN IS BREAK-ING.
...

AÍMA.


NERI ...
...YOU WON'T GET IN THE WAY, WILL YOU?


GET IN THE WAY?
OF YOU?


I DON'T WANT THE UN-MARKED.
I CAN'T EAT THEM.
WE SHOULD TRAVEL FOREVER WITH OUR ADORABLE FOOD SOURCE.


IT'S LIFE...
LIFE IS A BATTLE.


YOU'RE RIGHT...
...BUT... IT'S BORING.


IF YOU'RE HAPPY JUST EATING, THEN YOU'RE A VERY BORING CREATURE.


OUR HAPPINESS...
...WAS FINDING THE CHILDREN OF THE WHALE WITH THIS STAR.


FWISH
NERI!


YOU CAN'T UNLEASH THAT CHILD ON THE WORLD!
HE'S DISAS-TROUS!





YOU CAN MAKE IT BEYOND...

...THE POINT THAT MIDÉN REACHED.

CRASH




GASP!
SHHING
CRASH
Hey.
IT'S YOU.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?


I DIDN'T SEND YOU OFF PROPERLY, MASOH.


Ha ha ha...
You think I came back to haunt you because of that?


It's okay, you know. You don't have to send me off physically...
...if you do it in your heart.


But seriously...
...now that Nibi is gone, you really don't have anyone you can talk to about your feelings...
Well, you couldn't even when Nibi was around, not really.
What do you want to do?


I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY POWERS ARE GOING TO BECOME.
I...
THAT'S WHY...
...I DON'T WANT ANYTHING...
...TO DO WITH THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND.
You grouch...
If you don't get involved, someone is going to die.
...
Is that what you really think?


THE... UN-MARKED?
SUOU?
AND THAT GUY, THE COM-MAND-ER?
That's right.
...
Maybe that's okay.
Even if your power becomes this huge thing...
...and completely messes everything up...
...you don't have time to be afraid of that right now.
Everyone is waiting for you.
An incredibly powerful you.
Listen up...


Being a hero is a solitary business.
You're always solitary ...
...and you're always alone.
So don't worry about anyone else.
Wreck things to your heart's content.
People will still follow you.
They're waiting for you to brush aside the sand and show them the view.
CLICK
CLICK
Even if you break and lose yourself...
...that's what makes a hero.


Do everything...
...exactly the way you want to.
SHING
CRASH
GASP
You know, you're a little bashful. You can't be honest with your emotions...
So I'm going to give you some advice.

Follow the lead...

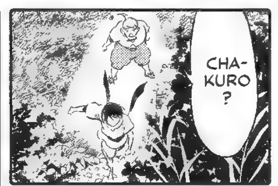
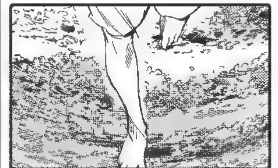
...of the one who needs you most right now.

He'll already have the answers.

CHAKURO!

GREAT, THEY'VE ALREADY LET YOU OUT.


NEZU, HAVE YOU SEEN LYKOS?
NOT TODAY...
MAYBE SHE'S STILL ASLEEP?

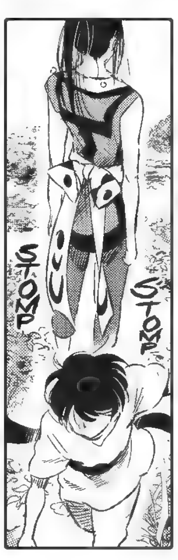
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ...
I GUESS I'LL GO SEE FURANO FIRST.

CHA-KURO ?



OUNI...

...


Follow the lead...
...of the one who needs you most right now.
GLARE


SHFF

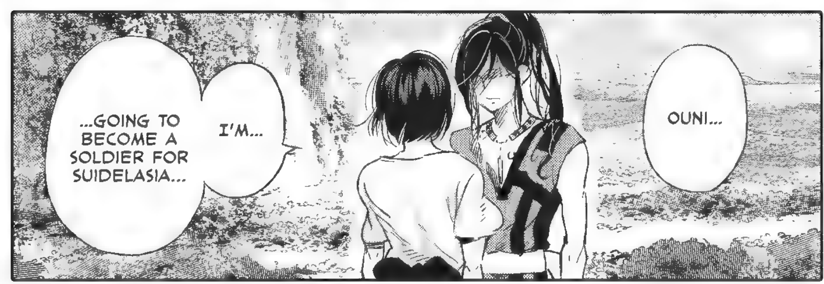
...

STOMP
STOMP

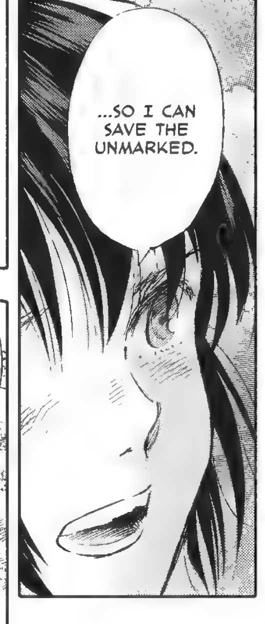
?!
GRAB

HEY, WAIT ...

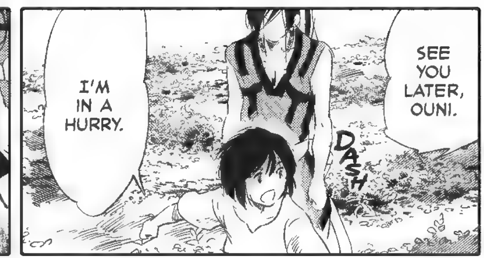
HUH? WHAT IS IT, OUNI?


...
WHY ARE YOU ANGRY?


OUNI...
I'M...
...GOING TO BECOME A SOLDIER FOR SUIDELASIA...


...SO I CAN SAVE THE UNMARKED.


YOU DON'T NEED TO DO ANY-THING, OUNI...
I'VE DECIDED TO STOP LEANING ON YOU ALL THE TIME.
I KNOW YOU HAVE IT TOUGH TOO.
SO DON'T WORRY...
WAIT FOR ME ON THE MUD WHALE, OKAY?









On the second day...

...the Amonlogian envoys and representatives of the Mud Whale met to discuss the situation and negotiate.

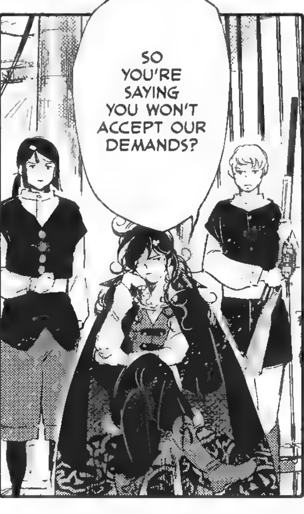
It was held on an Amonlogian ship.

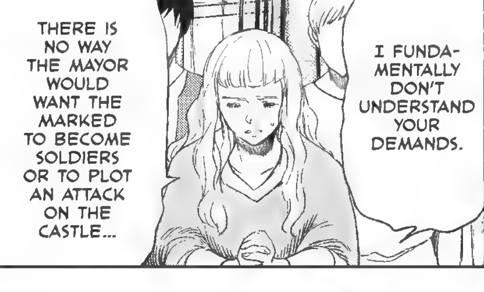
Furano, representatives for the Marked in their twenties and a security detail made up of two members of the vigilantes corps were there from the Mud Whale...

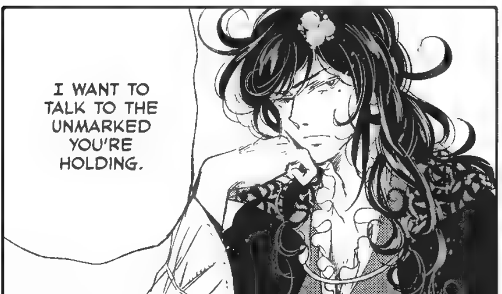
...and Deíktis, the second son of the duke, and his retainers were there for Amonlogia.

THEY ALLOWED THE MARKED AND VIGILANTES ON BOARD...

...AND SURROUNDED US WITH A FIERCE CONVOY.



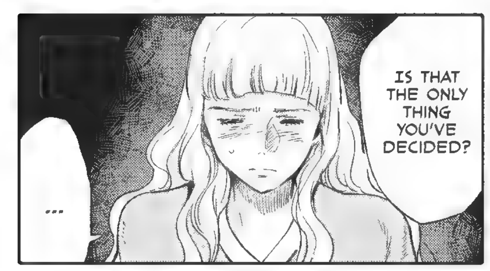




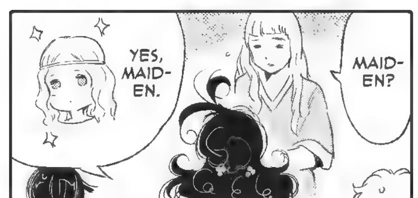

I SEE WHAT YOU ARE SAYING.
SIR DEÍKTIS ...


I'M NOT HAPPY WITH MY FATHER'S DECISIONS HERE...
... BUT ...


...I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO SEE THE HOSTAGES.


IS THAT THE ONLY THING YOU'VE DECIDED?
...


SIGH ...
IF ONLY THE MAIDEN WERE A GIRL...
I WOULD HAVE SAVED THE MAIDEN.


MAID-EN?
YES, MAID-EN.

TOTTER


THUMP


HUH?
SCAMPER


I'M...
...HURT TOO...

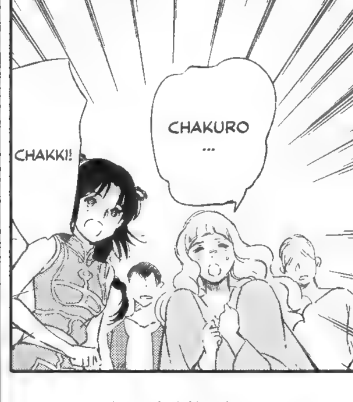






SO...

...PLEASE DON'T KILL SUOU AND THE OTHERS.


CHAKURO ...
CHAKKI!


JUST ONE BRAT?
YOU SMELL LIKE MILK...
SNIF
SNIF
SNIF
...AND YOU'RE A USELESS WASTE OF TIME!
ISN'T THERE ANYONE BETTER AVAIL- ABLE?!


JUST YOU?
NOD


THUD


I'M THE ONLY ONE...
NO...


WHEN YOU MAKE A DECISION ...
...ULTI- MATELY YOU'RE ALONE.







...THAT I'M GOING TO BE A SOLDIER...
BANG
CREAK
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

CREAK
CRACK
ARE WE UNDER ATTACK?!
WHOOSH
CRASH
CREAK
!!
WHOOSH


NO WAY...
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
OUNI ?!


BANG
HE'S ONE OF THEM!
DAMN!
BANG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE UNMARKED HOSTAGES?
TH-THIS IS...
STOP IT, OUNI!
I JUST GAVE YOU A TASTE.
TO SHOW YOU I'M WORTH AS MUCH AS A COUPLE HUNDRED MARKED.
SHANG
SHANG
SHANG
SHANG

I'M THE ONLY ONE YOU NEED.

I'LL DESTROY THE EMPIRE BY MYSELF.

OUNI...

FWIP







What Is Our Happiness? -The End-

Children of the Whales volume 9 -The End-

A Note on Names

Those who live on the Mud Whale are named after colors in a language unknown. Abi Umeda uses Japanese translations of the names, which we have maintained. Here is a list of the English equivalents for the curious.

Aijiro	pale blue
Benihi	scarlet
Buki	kerria flower (*yamabuki*)
Byakuroku	malachite mineral pigments, pale green tinged with white
Chakuro	blackish brown (*cha* = brown, *kuro* = black)
Furano	from "flannel," a soft-woven fabric traditionally made of wool
Ginshu	vermillion
Hakuji	porcelain white
Jiki	golden
Kicha	yellowish brown
Kikujin	koji mold, yellowish green
Kogare	burnt muskwood, dark reddish brown
Kuchiba	decayed-leaf brown
Masoh	cinnabar
Miru	seaweed green
Nashiji	a traditional Japanese crepe weave fabric
Neri	silk white
Nezu	mouse gray
Nibi	dark gray
Ouni	safflower red
Rasha	darkest blue, nearly black
Ro	lacquer black
Sami	light green (*asa* = light, *midori* = green)

Shikoku	purple-tinged black
Shikon	purple-tinged navy
Shinono	the color of dawn (*shinonome*)
Shuan	dark bloodred
Sienna	reddish brown
Sumi	ink black
Suou	raspberry red
Taisha	red ocher
Tobi	reddish brown like a kite's feather
Tokusa	scouring rush green
Urumi	muddy gray



I came upon a family trying to retrieve a kite that had gotten stuck in a tree, and for a second I thought seriously about using thymia to get it for them.

—Abi Umeda

ABI UMEDA debuted as a manga creator with the one-shot "Yukokugendan" in *Weekly Shonen Champion. Children of the Whales* is her eighth manga work.



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